

Ref: 128MISC23

T: 0292 092 4216

E: Correspondence@ukgovwales.gov.uk

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS

Llywydd (Presiding Officer)

Senedd Cymru

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA

By email: Llywydd@senedd.wales

13th November 2023

Dear Llywydd,

The King's Speech – 7th November 2023

I am writing following the King's Speech on 7th November which set out the UK Government's ambitious legislative programme for the fourth session. The programme is focused on increasing economic growth and safeguarding the health and security of people across the UK.

We will continue to prioritise growing the economy, easing cost-of-living pressures and supporting businesses. This includes modernising regulation to enable the most innovative firms in the UK to thrive. With the Automated Vehicles Bill, the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill, and the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, we will open the door to game-changing new technologies like driverless cars and machine learning.

We will continue securing the benefits of Brexit, legislating to boost trade and investment with the fast-growing economies in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a huge trading pact with a combined GDP of £12 trillion. This deal will give us access to a partnership that will account for the majority of global growth between now and 2050, guarantee that 99% of our goods can be sold tariff free, and reduce red tape for our world-leading services and goods exporters.

We will strengthen society by safeguarding the health and security of people across the United Kingdom for generations to come. This includes our plans for legislation to restrict the sale of tobacco so that children currently aged fourteen or younger can never be sold cigarettes, and to restrict the sale and marketing of e-cigarettes to children. I welcome the positive intergovernmental working that has led to a joint UK-wide consultation on this issue, and I will be encouraging the Welsh Government to join us in this legislation as we seek to protect young people across the UK from the harms caused by tobacco and vaping.

Ref: 128MISC23

T: 0292 092 4216
E: Correspondence@ukgovwales.gov.uk

This Government will keep people in Wales safe and protected from crime, anti-social behaviour, terrorism and illegal immigration. We will legislate to ensure tougher sentences for the most serious offences whilst reforming short sentences so that prison does not push offenders who can be rehabilitated into a cycle of reoffending. We will introduce powers to compel criminals to attend sentencing hearings, and will give the police the tools they need to tackle complex offences such as economic and organised crimes.

In this session, we will also support Welsh creative industries by legislating to allow S4C to broaden its reach and offer content on new platforms across the UK and beyond. The Media Bill will update S4C's public service remit to include digital and online services, implementing the recommendations of the Building an S4C for the future independent report. I hope that the Senedd will welcome measures which enable S4C to more easily adapt to market changes, maximise benefits to Welsh audiences, and deliver increased value for money.

As I set out in my Written Ministerial Statement, most of the Bills will apply to Wales, either in full or in part. I enclose a summary of the Bills announced, some of which were introduced to Parliament in the days following the King's Speech.

I hope that the Welsh Government will consider whether the reforms in our programme which cover devolved areas should also be taken forward in Wales. My officials will be working closely with the Welsh Government, and with colleagues in UK Government Departments, to ensure devolved provision could be included in Bills if applicable. We will of course seek the consent of the Senedd for any such provision.

I am writing in similar terms to the First Minister of Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Rt David TC Davies MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

King's Speech 2023

BILLS WHICH APPLY TO WALES (EITHER IN FULL OR IN PART)	
Bill	Purpose
Offshore Petroleum Licencing Bill	The Bill will make the UK more energy independent by increasing investor and industry confidence with regular annual oil and gas licensing. The Bill's emissions tests will ensure that future licensing supports the transition to net zero.
Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill	The Bill will ensure the UK can meet international commitments under the CPTPP when the UK accedes.
Automated Vehicles Bill	The Bill will unlock a transport revolution by enabling the safe deployment of self-driving vehicles. It will cement the UK's position as a global leader in this high tech and high growth industry and deliver one of the world's most comprehensive legal frameworks for self-driving vehicles, with safety at its core.
Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill (carryover)	The Bill will deliver on a manifesto commitment to tackle consumer rip-offs and bad business practices, including fake reviews and subscription traps. It will tackle vested interests to provide better value for money for consumers.
Data Protection and Digital Information Bill (carryover)	The Bill will maximise post-Brexit freedoms to boost the economy and unleash innovation while also protecting people from harm by building on the UK's already high standards. It has been co-designed with industry, for industry, in order to maximise the economic benefits.
Media Bill	The Bill will make long-term changes to ensure viewers and listeners across the UK can continue to access public service television and radio content as technology changes. It will also implement in statute recommendations made by Eyrn Ogwen Williams' 2018 independent S4C review.
Leasehold and Freehold Bill	The Bill will make the long-term and necessary changes to improve home ownership for millions of leaseholders in England and Wales, by making it cheaper and easier for more leaseholders to extend their lease, buy their freehold, and take over management of their building.
Football Governance Bill	An Independent Football Regulator will put fans back at the heart of football and help to deliver a sustainable future for all clubs. The regulator will safeguard the future of clubs in the English football pyramid for the benefit of communities and fans, including Cardiff City, Swansea City, Newport County and Wrexham.
Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill	The Bill will ban the export of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses for slaughter and fattening from Great Britain, stopping unnecessary stress, exhaustion and injury caused by exporting live animals.

Economic Activities of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill (carryover)	The Bill delivers a manifesto commitment to ban public bodies from imposing their own boycotts, divestment, or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries.
Sentencing Bill	The Bill will ensure tougher sentences for the most serious offenders, and will also reform short sentences so that prison does not push offenders who can be rehabilitated into a merry-go-round of reoffending.
Criminal Justice Bill	The Bill will give the police the tools they need to tackle complex offences such as economic and organised crimes, and bring in tougher sentences for grooming and child sexual exploitation. It will also reform the criminal justice system, including by introducing powers to compel criminals to attend their sentencing hearings.
Investigatory Powers (Amendment) Bill	The Bill will make urgent and targeted amendments to the Investigatory Powers Act to ensure that our intelligence agencies have the right tools at their disposal to keep the country safe.
Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill	The Bill – known as Martyn’s Law – will deliver a manifesto commitment to “improve the safety and security of public venues” and keep the British public safe from terrorism. Through Martyn’s Law, premises will be better prepared and ready to respond in the event of a terrorist attack.
Victims and Prisoners Bill (carryover)	The Bill will introduce long-term reforms to the victim experience with the criminal justice system, providing immediate and victim-centred support in the event of disasters or major incidents, and reforming the parole system to rebuild public confidence.
BILLS WHICH DO NOT APPLY TO WALES	
Tobacco and Vapes Bill	The Bill will create a smokefree generation by restricting the sale of tobacco so that children currently aged fourteen or younger can never be sold cigarettes, and restrict the sale and marketing of e-cigarettes to children.
Renters (Reform) Bill (carryover)	The Bill will deliver a manifesto commitment to upgrade the private rented sector and improve renting for the long-term. It will provide greater security and certainty of quality accommodation for renters, while helping landlords get their property back swiftly when needed, such as evicting anti-social tenants or those repeatedly in rent arrears.
Pedicabs (London) Bill	The Bill will give Transport for London powers to regulate London’s pedicab industry so that passengers, pedestrians and other road users go about their lives safe in the knowledge these vehicles and their operators are properly licensed and accountable.
Holocaust Memorial Bill (carryover)	The Bill will support the building of a national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in the heart of our democracy, next to the Houses of Parliament. It will be a focal point for national remembrance of the Holocaust, dedicated to the six million Jewish men, women and children and all other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators.