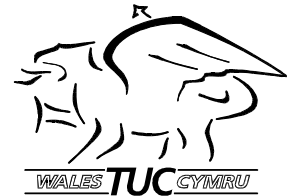


Wales TUC Cymru
1, Cathedral Road, /1, Heol yr Egwys Gadeiriol,
Cardiff /Caerdydd,
CF11 9SD
Tel/ffon [REDACTED]
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Rt. hon. Alun Cairns MP,
Secretary of State for Wales,
1 Caspian Point, Caspian Way,
Cardiff, CF10 4DQ.

8th June 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

Wales Bill 2016

Further to the publication of the new draft Wales Bill yesterday. I am writing to request a meeting with representatives of the Wales TUC to discuss the content of the Bill and to provide details of our concerns relating to the provisions it contains.

For background I am attaching the Wales TUC position statement which was unanimously adopted at our 2016 Conference at the end of May.

There are clearly several areas where the draft Bill does not fulfil our aspirations for a clear and lasting settlement and we would want to discuss each of these with you. However we would particularly wish to discuss the reservation on employment (Schedule 1 — New Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006 – Head H) as this an area where the exceptions are inadequate to allow the Welsh government to act on workforce matters within devolved areas.

I hope you are able to agree to meet in order to discuss these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Martin Mansfield'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Mansfield
General Secretary

Wales TUC General Council Statement May 2016

The draft Wales Bill and future of devolution

The achievement of devolution for Wales has been hard fought over several decades with successive referenda and elections resulting in the settled will of the Welsh people being overwhelmingly for a Welsh government and Senedd with full legislative powers.

The Wales TUC seeks the greatest possible degree of devolution appropriate for Wales. A clear, robust, sustainable devolution settlement is necessary for any Welsh government to be able to act in the interests of Welsh workers for our economy and our public services.

Specifically, the General Council supports;

- The use of an appropriate reserved powers model for Welsh devolution.
- The establishment of a distinct Welsh jurisdiction appropriate to the development of Welsh law.
- The devolution of powers over policing, the work programme, major energy and infrastructure plans, the Severn bridges tolls, ports and the naming, elections to and functioning of the National Assembly for Wales.
- The devolution of income tax in the context of a just and lasting financial settlement for Wales.

The General Council accepts that general powers over employment law should be a reserved matter. However, the phrasing of this reservation must not undermine the ability of the Welsh Government to act on workforce matters within devolved areas. This is particularly important for the operation of social partnership in Wales and the delivery of a system with fair work and opportunity at its heart.

The General Council rejects the UK Government draft Wales Bill which would see the rowing-back of the devolution settlement and believes the Bill as currently presented must be withdrawn completely. The General Council supports the approach adopted in the Welsh Government's draft Bill 'Government and Laws in Wales, where it reflects Wales TUC policy, and believes the UK Government should adopt this as a format for the revised Wales Bill.

Wales has national devolution, complete with a government and legislature, supported by the will of the Welsh people in referendum results. This is not similar to the decentralisation of budget co-ordination to English mayors, cities

or regions; nor is it necessarily precisely the same as the approach suitable for another devolved nation. It is therefore not appropriate for the implementation of an enhanced Welsh devolution settlement to be limited by, grouped with or delayed by, decentralisation issues within England or the development of the devolution settlements in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

The General Council will work with the incoming Welsh government and will lobby the Secretary of State for Wales & members of the UK Houses of Parliament, to ensure that a new Wales Bill is introduced consistent with our policy.