

Jane Hutt AC/AM  
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip  
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00038/17

Huw Irranca-Davies AM  
Assembly Member for Ogmore  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Huw.Irranca-Davies@assembly.wales

8 June 2017

Dear Huw

Thank you for your letter of 11 May in regards to The Compulsory Purchase of Land (Vesting Declarations) (Wales) Regulations 2017 and the accuracy of the English and Welsh texts of legislation.

Legislation should be free from legal, drafting and other technical defects. The Welsh Government is, of course, committed to this.

All of the Welsh Government's statutory instruments are prepared by lawyers in the light of policy instructions. Drafts are subjected to legal review and checking before being submitted for translation by our dedicated Legislative Translation team. There is a continuing dialogue between lawyers and legislative translators when preparing the Welsh text to ensure that the intended legal effect is understood and properly reflected in both language texts. The resulting bilingual draft is further subjected to bilingual text editing. This is undertaken by a member of the dedicated editing team led by a jurilinguist, or in some cases by a WG lawyer with significant experience and expertise in relation to bilingual legislative drafting. The draft is then cleared as final by the responsible lawyer.

Nevertheless, and notwithstanding these processes and the significant investment in our professional bilingual legislative capability, discrepancies can slip through. Our analysis shows that these are relatively few in number, There is, of course, a range of options for dealing with such discrepancies, and the Committee has been of great help to us in discussing those in individual cases.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.


We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Indeed, the Welsh Government acknowledges the important scrutiny function undertaken by the Committee and the contribution such scrutiny has on securing the quality of the high volumes of bilingual subordinate legislation produced annually. The Welsh Government continually strives to improve its systems and processes and this case will be taken into consideration as part of that ongoing process.

My thanks once more to you and to members of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee for drawing this matter to my attention.

I am copying this letter to my Cabinet colleague, Lesley Griffiths AM and to the Counsel General.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

**Jane Hutt AC/AM**

Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip

Leader of the House and Chief Whip