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cc Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, Secretary of State for Wales
Carwyn Jones AM, Welsh Labour
Andrew R T Davies AM, Welsh Conservatives
Neil Hamilton AM, UKIP
Leanne Wood AM, Plaid Cymru
Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs
Committee

9 September 2016

Dear Member of Parliament

In advance of Monday's Report stage debate on the Wales Bill in the Commons, I am aware of the amendments now tabled by the Secretary of State for Wales. Some of these address points raised in the amendments I published in July ahead of Commons committee scrutiny. I am pleased that the UK Government has recognised the value of these suggestions and I would like to draw your attention to those particular amendments and I hope they will be agreed on Monday.

I am of course disappointed that the UK Government did not consider more of the wider principles in other amendments I suggested, in particular in respect of the legislative consent process and the restoration of the Assembly's current ability to legislate in an "ancillary" way on exceptions from competence (the equivalent to reservations under the proposed settlement).

The following are the welcome amendments which address issues I have previously raised:

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English



Clause	Purpose	Tabled	Amendment Number
Clause 1: Permanence of NAW/WG	These amendments move the section on permanence of NAW and Welsh Government to the beginning of GOWA 2006.	SoSW	3,4,5,6,7 and 8
Clause 6: Timing of elections	Transfers power to vary the date of an election to Presiding Officer rather than Welsh Ministers (currently held by SoS).	SoSW	9-12
Clause 8: Super-majority	Removes requirement for SOs to require bilingual statement by the Presiding Officer. This is unnecessary as these statements are already required to be bilingual under Assembly legal requirements and our Standing Orders.	SoSW	13
Clause 12: Finance provisions	Amendment inserts provision in section 124 of GOWA 2006 equivalent to s65(3) of SA 1998 that funds can only be used as authorised.	SoSW	16
	Consequential amendments related to amendment 16 and 18.	SoSW	14, 15 and 17
	Removal of Comptroller and Auditor General powers to carry out examinations regarding payments into/out of Welsh Consolidated Fund and power to carry out Value For Money studies in relation to Welsh Public Authorities.	SoSW	18
Clause 15: Name change	Amendments provides for the Welsh names for the National Assembly for Wales and Acts of the Assembly.	SoSW	19-22
Schedule 1	Amendment to clarify that reservation in para 6 relating to prosecutors does not affect the ability of an Assembly Act to specify the prosecutor of an offence within devolved competence.	SoSW	26
Schedule 2	Removes prohibition on ability of an Assembly Act to modify sections 145 and 145A of GOWA 1998, relating to examinations and studies by AGW.	SoSW	29
	Consequential amendments as result of amendment 18 to remove section 136 from	SoSW	30-31



	list		
Schedule 4	Amendments adding to list of Welsh public authorities; including the NAW Commissioner for Standards and the Remuneration Board.	SoSW	39-42
Schedule 5	Amendments to allow Orders in Council to be used to make provision for proclamations related to timing of elections as provided for by amendments 11 and 12.	SoSW	43
	Consequential amendments as result of removal of C&AG powers in amendment 18. Amendments to: National Audit Act 1983;GOWA 1998; Care Standards Act 2000; Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005; and Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Act 2006.	SoSW	44, 48, 51

I look forward to following the debate on Monday.



Elin Jones AM
Presiding Officer

