**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**Y Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol a Deddfwriaethol

National Assembly for Wales Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

> Lesley Griffiths AM Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs

23 January 2018

Dear Lesley

## Agricultural Wages (Wales) Order 2017

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2018. The Committee was disappointed not to see a more focused response to the four questions it posed in its letter of 4 December. The Committee chose those questions for good reason, having particular concern around the need for special justification of retrospective legislation (that concern stemming from the lesson the Assembly learned as a result of the Supreme Court judgment in the Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill case [2015] UKSC 3]).

The Committee is keen to have transparency and open debate around human rights issues, not least because such transparency and open debate would actually help resist any legal challenge to legislation that passes through the Assembly. Given that the Welsh Government has considered a range of matters and balanced the competing interests, the Welsh Government must have this information at hand. Therefore, the Committee is unsure as to why the letter does not use that information in order to give a more focused response to the four questions.

Yours sincerely

David Melding AM

**Temporary Chair** 

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

