



Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM
First Minister of Wales
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

01 May 2018

Dear Carwyn,

On 7 March the Assembly unanimously agreed to endorse the recommendations of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Committee to amend the UK Government's EU (Withdrawal) Bill to include specific subordinate legislation scrutiny arrangements for the Assembly as set out by the Committee. On 22 March, I wrote to the Secretary of State for Wales drawing his attention to the Assembly's resolution which sets out the Assembly's position on the amendments required to the Bill in this area.

As you will be aware, this included the recommendation that the sifting committee recommendations should be binding, save where the Assembly resolves otherwise. I am therefore concerned that you chose subsequently to communicate directly to the UK Government a Welsh Government view which differed from that agreed by resolution of the Assembly.

This is especially disappointing as the Welsh Government rightly acknowledged that such matters are for the Assembly itself to decide, and chose neither to amend nor to vote against the motion which resulted in that resolution.

I fully support the views expressed by the CLA Committee about this issue in correspondence to both of us and I note the strength of feeling expressed by Members of the Committee in the Chamber during the Chair's Statement on this matter on 25 April. I do, however, acknowledge and welcome your apology to the Committee in your letter of the same date.

It would aid clarity and transparency in future, for Members, stakeholders and the public, if the Welsh Government's support or otherwise for proposed resolutions of the Assembly is reflected in how it votes on these matters.

On the substantive matter of the Assembly's position on the sifting committee procedure, I would expect the Government to support, subject to the final text of the Withdrawal Bill and the further detailed work the CLA Committee is currently

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@cynulliad.cymru

www.cynulliad.cymru

0300 200 7403

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@assembly.wales

www.assembly.wales

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undertaking, changes to Standing Orders that mean the practical application of any new procedure does reflect the recommendations the Assembly endorsed.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the CLA Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Elin Jones AM

Llywydd

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

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