

14 March 2019

**Elin Jones AM**

Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

**Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill**

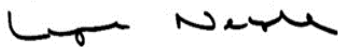
Thank you for your letter of 13 March enclosing the proposed timetable for the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill.

The Committee has considered the proposed timetable. While we are content at the moment to agree the timetable in principle, we are conscious that the Welsh Government received a high volume of responses to its consultation on the legislative proposal to remove the defence of reasonable punishment (over 1800). Similar legislation introduced to the Scottish Parliament in September 2018 generated 443 responses as part of the responsible Committee's consultation on its general principles. This is a significantly higher number of responses than we would usually receive and consider at Stage 1.

If we receive a similar volume of responses, it may be necessary for us to seek more time to produce our Stage 1 report in order to enable us to pay sufficient attention to all respondents' views. I do not wish to pre-empt our consultation by requesting an extension at this early stage, however I will write again at the end of our consultation (early May 2019) to provide an update on our progress and our ability to report by 19 July 2019.

If an extension to our Stage 1 deadline is necessary, we are confident that – due to the summer recess – our report would be published in time to avoid any delay to the debate on the general principles in Plenary, scheduled for 17 September 2019.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
**Chair**

