

**Julie Morgan AC/AM**

**Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref MA-L/JM/0246/20

Llŷr Gruffydd AM  
Chair  
Finance Committee

11 February 2020

Dear Llŷr,

I would like to once again thank members of the Finance Committee who gave their time and expertise to scrutinise the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill during its successful passage through the Senedd.

I have been absolutely committed to providing, as accurately as possible, best estimates of costs associated with the Bill. Prior to introduction we explored data published in the UK and internationally and we have worked diligently with a range of stakeholders, including those in other nations who have taken forward similar legislation. As far as I know, no other nation has done as much to identify the potential impact or cost before legislating to prohibit the physical punishment of children.

Following recommendations from your Committee I was pleased to be able to provide further detail in the Explanatory Memorandum laid before the Senedd in January. This included providing best estimates for previously unknown costs. This has been possible as a result of the hard work being carried out by, and with, our partners through our implementation groups.

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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.

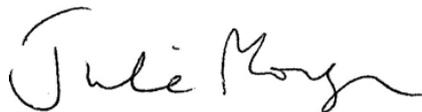
As the Committee notes in your letter of 27 January, many of the additional costs outlined in the updated Explanatory memorandum have arisen due to accepting the recommendations made in the Finance Committee's Stage 1 Report or through taking into account issues raised during the Senedd's scrutiny of the Bill.

You may be reassured that we are working closely with stakeholders, including through our implementation groups, to design the most effective and efficient method to collect data and monitor the impact of the legislation on relevant services and organisations.

We note your point about the timing of the Financial Resolution for Bills, given costs can significantly increase later as a result of Government or non-Government amendments to a Bill. As you will appreciate, the timing is set out in Standing Orders, so is not a matter the Welsh Government can address.

Thank you again for the work carried out by the Committee. I will continue to keep the Senedd informed of the work of the Strategic Implementation Group, including any further information on potential costs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julie Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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