

David Rees AM
Chair, External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

25 February 2020

Dear David,

Social Partnership (Wales) Bill

At its meeting on 11 February, the Business Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Equality, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee, responding to the government's proposed timetable for the Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill. The letter highlighted several areas of concern to the Business Committee, noting that the ten sitting weeks for Stage 1 Committee consideration is two weeks fewer than the usual practice of 12 weeks.

The committee highlighted that the time available for scrutiny of this Bill is further limited by the need to accommodate Stage 2 proceedings on the Local Government Bill within the same timeframe. In effect, the committee will need to complete all of its work in eight sitting weeks rather than the ten noted in the timetable. The letter further noted that the Welsh Government intends to introduce a Social Partnership Bill before Summer recess, and that this could also fall under that committee's remit.

As the Business Committee is keen to reduce the timetabling pressure on the ELGC Committee and the consideration of legislation forms part of your committee's remit, Business Managers agreed to consult both committees before making an in principle decision on which to refer the Bill to for Stage 1 scrutiny.



During the meeting, the Trefnydd confirmed that the government's intention is to introduce the Bill just before Summer recess. The proposals for the content of the Bill are outlined in a White Paper titled 'A more equal Wales: strengthening social partnership', published on 7 November 2019, and in his statement on the legislative programme in July the First Minister said: 'we will place social partnership on a statutory footing by bringing forward a Bill before the end of this Assembly term to enshrine the current non-statutory social partnership model in law and to ensure that agreements reached in social partnership are clearly enforceable.'

I enclose the letter from the ELGC Committee for your consideration – please be aware that this is a private paper not for publication or circulation other than to committee members. I would be grateful if you could respond to me outlining your views on the potential for your committee to consider the Social Partnerships Bill by Monday 16 March 2020.

Kind regards



Elin Jones AM

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

