

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS  
Llywydd  
Chair, Business Committee

21 December 2022

Annwyl Lywydd

## **Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill**

The Business Committee will be aware of my Committee's interest in the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill (the Bill), such that you have referred the Welsh Government's legislative consent memorandum for the Bill to us for scrutiny.

You will also likely be aware of comments made by the Counsel General, Mick Antoniw MS, in Plenary in recent months about the likelihood of the Bill leading to the Welsh Government's legislative programme being almost completely overwhelmed, the enormous financial and resource implications for the Welsh Government, and the creation of an enormous amount of work for my Committee.

On 5 December we took evidence from the Counsel General on the Bill and the Welsh Government's corresponding legislative consent memorandum.

The Counsel General again spoke of his concerns that the implementation of the Bill, should it be passed and enacted, has the potential to overwhelm the Welsh Government. Concerns about the implications for Senedd Business and for the Welsh Government's own legislative programme were also discussed during our meeting.

The Counsel General shared his view with us that detailed scrutiny, and the timescale for that scrutiny, was looking incredibly difficult. He indicated that he would be committed to detailed discussions with the Senedd about the scale of work which may be required once the full implications of the Bill are known. These concerns were echoed by the First Minister on 9 December in evidence to the Scrutiny of the First Minister Committee.



My Committee has also received evidence from stakeholders who have cited specific concerns regarding the delivery of the Bill's requirements given its challenging timetable.

We have written to the Counsel General asking further questions about the Bill and the Welsh Government's approach, and also the impact on and the role of the Senedd. We will keep you updated with relevant information.

While we are still considering the legislative consent memorandum for the Bill, and will likely report to the Senedd in February, we believe the Welsh Government's concerns about the potential implications for Senedd Business in 2023 – both for my Committee who will be responsible for the scrutiny of any required regulations and for other Committees who first wish to influence the Welsh Government's decision-making processes – need to be drawn to your attention at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Huw Irranca-Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair

