

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/JJ/0703/23

Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing &
Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations
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9 March 2023

Dear Michael,

I am writing to express my disappointment at the time afforded for Senedd scrutiny of the amendments tabled at House of Commons Report Stage of the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill.

I understand that our respective officials worked together to ensure at least a small amount of time was made available for consideration of amendments published on 10 February. However, there was no opportunity for me to consider the detail of amendments published on 27 February and bring forward a legislative consent memorandum before the consent debate, which was required to take place on 28 February prior to Report stage on 1 March.

As a result, a further consent debate has been scheduled for 28 March on these latest amendments, possibly just days before Royal Assent. This timeframe does not allow for meaningful debate in the Senedd and does not reflect the intended operation of the Sewel Convention.

It is very disappointing that following some good engagement in earlier stages, the late stage amendments effectively meant the Senedd was not able to consider the complete Bill in an acceptable timeframe when making its decision on consent.

Limited timescales for considering amendments seriously undermine the ability of the Senedd to effectively scrutinise legislation which will have an impact in Wales. These issues are only further exacerbated when the amendments come so late in the passage of a Bill.

I trust that you and your colleagues in UK Government will consider the impacts of late stage amendments on the legislative consent process, and seek to ensure substantive amendments on Bills are kept to a minimum.

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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.

I will be sharing a copy of this letter with the Llywydd and the Chair of the Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS
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