

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS
Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

13 March 2023

Annwyl Lywydd

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill – Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 4)

I understand that, on Tuesday 7 March 2023, the Business Committee set my Committee a provisional reporting deadline of Tuesday 14 March for a further supplementary legislative consent memorandum on the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, which at that point had not yet been laid before the Senedd. You will know that Memorandum No. 4 was eventually laid on Friday 10 March.

At our meeting this afternoon, while we were able to note Memorandum No. 4, there has been no time for any sort of meaningful analysis or consideration. This is regrettable.

I wrote to the Counsel General last week and expressed my Committee's concerns that, as Bills which are subject to legislative consent memoranda near the end of the scrutiny process in the UK Parliament, the Welsh Government should do more to ensure the Senedd is given critical information in a more timely manner. We do, however, recognise that the complexities of the Welsh Government engaging with the UK Government on England and Wales legislation contributes to the difficulties.

Given the significance and complexity of the Bill, my Committee's report on the earlier Memoranda required careful and detailed consideration. Given the time constraints, we do not believe it is practical or even possible for us to give such consideration to Memorandum No. 4 and produce a report that could meaningfully and usefully inform the Senedd's forthcoming debate on a legislative consent motion for the Bill. This too is regrettable.

I trust you will find this helpful in your deliberations as a Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

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Chair

