Dear Jane

Inquiry: Making Laws in the Fourth Assembly

Thank you for your giving evidence to us on 16 March 2015 in respect of the above inquiry.

During the session you offered to provide further information on a number of points, namely:

- information regarding the protocol for government White Papers and draft Bills (paragraph 18 of the draft transcript). It would be helpful if you could clarify whether this protocol is the same protocol you refer to in paragraph 39 of the draft transcript regarding consultation and whether it also covers the policy development guidelines that you follow prior to a Bill’s introduction, also referred to in paragraph 39;

- a note on the changes made to the draft Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill as a result of consultation prior to its subsequent introduction (paragraph 32 of the draft transcript).

In your evidence you also refer to a review undertaken by the First Minister in 2013 (paragraph 57 of the draft transcript). It would be helpful to have a note on this review including the outcome and impact you hope it will have on the drafting of legislation.
We were not able to explore your views on Member Bills in the time available. It would be helpful if you could clarify:

- at what point does the Welsh Government seek to engage with a Member Bill following an Assembly Member’s success in a ballot?

- what engagement, as a general rule, do you have with an Assembly Member and his / her Member Bill at the various stages of the legislative process and what does that engagement consist of?

- how does the Welsh Government facilitate discussions with the UK Government on the Member’s behalf regarding matters of legislative competence?

I would be grateful to receive your response as soon as possible and by no later than 16 April 2015.

Yours sincerely

David Melding AM
Chair