

Mick Antoniw MS  
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

08 October 2020

Dear Mick

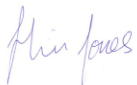
### **Covid-19 Regulations**

On 6 October the Business Committee discussed the timing of debates of Covid-19 Regulations. In particular, the Committee considered what the appropriate balance should be between the need to allow sufficient time for committee scrutiny on one hand, and on the other the importance of ensuring that Members are given the opportunity to debate the Regulations in a timely manner. The Committee's conclusion was that the Welsh Government's more recent pattern of scheduling debates within two weeks of Regulations having been laid, combined with the ability of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to consider and report on those Regulations within that timescale, struck a satisfactory balance. The importance of the LJC committee's role in the scrutiny of such legislation was reaffirmed.

However, there was further discussion about the possibility of taking a different approach to those Regulations for which the general purpose had already been considered in the scrutiny of previous Regulations. This point was felt to be particularly relevant in the case of Regulations relating to local restrictions, where a series of Regulations have introduced specific restrictions in a number of County Boroughs in turn and have been scrutinised in detail. One potential option raised in discussion was for Welsh Government to flag new Regulations where the underlying principle had already been scrutinised, to enable a decision to be taken by the Business Committee about the level of further scrutiny which might be required before the debate.

The Business Committee is therefore seeking the LJC Committee's views on the possibility of enabling certain Regulations to be prioritised for debate in such circumstances.



Yours sincerely,



**Elin Jones MS**  
Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee



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