

Elin Jones, AM  
Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales

8 June 2018

Dear Llywydd,

### **Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill: Timetable for Stage 1 and 2 proceedings**

I am writing on behalf of the Children, Young People and Education Committee to request an extension to the timetable Business Committee has agreed for the Stage 1 and 2 consideration of the Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill.

#### **Reasons for extending the deadline**

Prior to introduction of the Bill, the CYPE Committee agreed to the proposed Stage 1 deadline, which included 10 sitting weeks, on the basis that it was described by the Welsh Government as 'a largely technical Bill' which was only 13 sections long.

However, on the Bill's introduction, the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum drew significantly on the Bill's close relationship with the current childcare pilot offer, and the Welsh Government's manifesto pledge to deliver this offer across Wales. As a consequence, a significant proportion of the evidence received by the Committee has related to relevant aspects of the childcare offer.

To fully understand the Bill's general principles, and to provide full, proper and transparent scrutiny of its purpose and effect, the Committee has needed to take more oral evidence than initially envisaged. Furthermore, the Committee feels it is essential that sufficient time is provided to allow full and effective consideration of the Stage 1 evidence, to ensure that its findings and recommendations in relation to the Bill's general principles and their effect are robust and thorough.



## Overall timetable for the Bill

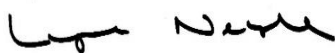
I would be grateful if Business Committee would consider extending the Committee's Stage 1 reporting deadline from Friday 6 July 2018 to Wednesday 18 July 2018 to enable the Committee to fully consider the more complex issues arising as a consequence of the Explanatory Memorandum's references to the childcare offer. This would require the re-scheduling of the Stage 1 debate from the last week of the summer term (17 July 2018) to the first week of the autumn term (18 September 2018).

To adhere to Standing Order requirements and to enable the same amount of time as provided in the original timetable for the Minister and Members to engage in the amending stages, I would be grateful if you would also consider extending the timetable for Stage 2 by two weeks so that proceedings can be concluded by 26 October 2018. This extension would still enable Stage 3 and 4 proceedings to be completed before the Christmas recess, and for Royal Assent to be sought by January 2019 in line with the Welsh Government's original intention.

The Committee would therefore be grateful if you could consider this request favourably.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Finance and Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committees.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
Chair

