

Elin Jones MS
Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee
Welsh Parliament

2 July 2021

Dear Llywydd

Legislative Consent Memorandum in relation to the Environment Bill

I understand that the Business Committee decided on 29 June to refer the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) in relation to the Environment Bill to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure (CCEI) Committee for scrutiny.

The Business Committee has agreed a reporting deadline of 13 September and the Welsh Government plans to hold a debate seeking the Senedd's consent on the following day. This curtailed timetable of two full sitting weeks would be unreasonable under normal circumstances. It is even more so, given that the Business Committee is yet to agree and bring forward motions for the election of members of the Committee, and is yet to agree a timetable for committee meetings.

The LCM process involves the Senedd being asked to agree that the UK Parliament should legislate on its behalf in devolved areas. The Business Committee should not need to be reminded of the significance of this process and of the need for adequate scrutiny of any such proposals. I understand that the scrutiny timetable needs to take account of the passage of a Bill through the UK Parliament. However, the Business Committee should not start the 6th Senedd term by undermining the scrutiny process it is meant to facilitate and support.

I would be grateful if the Business Committee would reconsider the scrutiny timetable in its next meeting. If the Business Committee is unable to agree an extension to the timetable, it



Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

✉ Cysylltu@senedd.cymru
☎ 0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

✉ Contact@senedd.wales
☎ 0300 200 6565

should at the very least seek a commitment that the Minister for Climate Change will attend a meeting of the CCEI Committee before the summer recess so that the proposals can be scrutinised. This, of course, is subject to the Business Committee fully establishing the Committee and agreeing a timetable of committee meetings.

Finally, setting a reporting deadline one day before the planned Plenary debate makes it very difficult for the Welsh Government to respond to the Committee's report and any recommendations within it in a meaningful way. I would be grateful if the Business Committee would seek a commitment from the Trefnydd that a response to the Committee's report will be made available to the Senedd in advance of the debate on the LCM.

I look forward to your response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

