



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/RE/2313/21

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
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2 November 2021

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter about the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum (the Memorandum) on the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill (the Bill).

I would like to address the matters you have raised in your consideration of the Memorandum.

The background to the Bill was not included within the Memorandum, which focuses on the relevant provisions of the Bill for which consent is required. The Bill was introduced on 12 May without prior discussion with the Welsh Government as to whether provisions for Wales should be included on introduction. The timing of the development of the Bill prior to its introduction, also fell within the Senedd's pre-election period.

Following the election, an approach to the Bill was formulated and I wrote to the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 27 July asking for relevant provisions for Wales to be included within the Bill. I received a response on 3 September from the then Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government confirming that relevant provisions for Wales would be tabled as an amendment at Report Stage in the House of Commons on 9 September.

I note your comments on the link provided in the memorandum, this link is to the webpage hosting information relevant to all stages of the Bill. The Bill as amended containing provisions relevant to Wales can be found at:

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/42504/documents/629>

With regards to the making of relevant Regulations, yesterday afternoon I laid the *Valuation for Rating (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021*. These Regulations came into force at 6pm yesterday evening and have the effect, going forward, of preventing Material Change of Circumstances appeals which seek to rely on Covid-19 related matters. The Welsh Government considered it necessary to consult on these Regulations, with a consultation on draft Regulations taking place between 16 August and 27 September: a summary of responses was published on 21 October.

As a result of timing constraints, it has not been possible to include a clause in the Bill revoking these Regulations. I intend to lay further regulations to revoke the Regulations, which will align with the timing of Royal Assent, should the Bill continue to progress.

I am copying this reply to Paul Davies MS, Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government