



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee  
[SeneddHealth@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddHealth@senedd.wales)

15 February 2022

Dear Jayne

### **Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Nationality and Borders Bill**

I am grateful to you and your fellow members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee for taking the time to consider the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) laid on the Nationality and Borders Bill ("the Bill"). Importantly, I note and welcome the views received from stakeholders.

I was pleased to see that with the exception of Laura Jones MS and James Evans MS, members agreed with the position I set out in the LCM; that the consent of the Senedd is required for the clauses highlighted.

Your report includes two recommendations. My response to those recommendations are as follows:

**Recommendation 1. The Senedd should withhold legislative consent in relation to the Nationality and Borders Bill. Laura Jones MS and James Evans MS do not agree with this recommendation.**

I am pleased the majority of Committee members agree legislative consent should be withheld in relation to the age assessment clauses in the Bill. I sincerely hope the Senedd will come to this majority view.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

**Recommendation 2. The Welsh Government should press the UK Government to ensure that scientific age assessment techniques are not introduced in Wales. Laura Jones MS and James Evans MS do not agree with this recommendation.**

Should the Senedd support the Welsh Government and vote to withhold consent we will urge the UK Government to act responsibly and ensure these provisions do not apply to Wales. If the UK Government chooses to continue with the Bill as drafted, irrespective of the Senedd's view, we will explore all political and legal avenues to ensure these techniques are not utilised in Wales.

I am copying this letter to Huw Irranca-Davies MS the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and Russell George MS the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee.

I hope my reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first few letters.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice