

Elin Jones, AM

Chair of the Business Committee

26.05.17

Dear Elin

I write to draw the attention of the Business Committee to my concerns about the scrutiny of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill (the Bill), which is scheduled to have the Stage 1 debate on Tuesday 6 June.

The deadline for Stage 1 reporting was Wednesday 24 May. On Thursday 25 May the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language sent a letter to the Finance and Children, Young People & Education Committees regarding the anticipated changes to the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) which accompanies the Bill.

The cost implications identified within the letter are significant, with the projected savings reduced, and costs increased. The changes in costs, as set out in the Minister's letter, are:

- Estimated ongoing savings are expected to reduce from £14,182,920 (as published in the RIA in December 2016), over the four year period (to which the RIA refers), to £3,675,240 – so from around £3.5m per annum to around £900k per annum;
- The estimated overall cost of the Bill is expected to change from a saving of £4,828,480 (as published in the RIA in December 2016) over the four year period to a cost of £8,279,250.

As this letter was published after the Stage 1 reporting deadline, shortly before half term recess, I will not have the opportunity to discuss these changes with the Finance Committee before the Stage 1 debate. I find it alarming that these costs have been sent through at this late stage, and there is no opportunity for scrutiny.



I have written to the Minister and I have requested that based on this change, the substantial costs and the other financial issues which arose during the course of the Stage 1 scrutiny, that he delays moving a financial resolution to allow the Committee the opportunity to consider these costs more fully.

I would be grateful if Business Committee could consider whether this lack of opportunity for scrutiny of such substantial costs is acceptable.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simon Thomas AM
Chair

