

## Agenda Supplement – Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Hybrid – Committee Room 4, Tŷ Hywel  
and videoconference via Zoom

Meeting date: 3 November 2025

Meeting time: 14.30

For further information contact:

P Gareth Williams

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddLJC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales)

### Hybrid – Supplementary Pack

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Please note the documents below are in addition to those published in the main Agenda and Reports pack for this Meeting

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### 3 Instruments that raise issues to be reported to the Senedd under Standing Order 21.7

(14.35 – 14.40)

#### 3.1 SL(6)655 – The Individual Candidate Election Expenses (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025

(Page 1)

[Code of Practice](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–30–25 – Paper 3a – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and  
Local Government, 31 October 2025

#### 3.2 SL(6)656 – The Political Parties Campaign Expenditure (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025

(Page 2)

[Code of Practice](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)



Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-30-25 – Paper 4a – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government, 31 October 2025

### **3.3 SL(6)657 – Non-Party Campaigner Campaign Expenditure (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025**

(Page 3)

[Code of Practice](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-30-25 – Paper 5a – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government, 31 October 2025

## **5 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement**

(14.45 – 14.50)

### **5.4 Correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: The United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (Exclusions from Market Access Principles: Glue Traps) Regulations 2025**

(Page 4)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-30-25 – Paper 36 – Correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, 30 October 2025

### **5.5 Correspondence from the Welsh Government: Meetings of inter-ministerial groups**

(Pages 5 – 8)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-30-25 – Paper 37 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning: Interministerial Group for Tourism, 31 October 2025

LJC(6)-30-25 – Paper 38 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and

Welsh Language: Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee, 31 October 2025

## **6 Papers to note**

(14.50 – 14.55)

### **6.11 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government: Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill**

(Pages 9 – 16)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-30-25 – Paper 39 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government, 30 October 2025

LJC(6)-30-25 – Paper 40 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government to the Finance Committee, 30 October 2025

Jayne Bryant AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PO/JB/545/2025  
Ein cyf/Our ref PO/JB/545/2025

Mike Hedges  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
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SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

31 October 2025

Dear Mike,

Electoral Commission Codes of Practice

- Non-Party Campaigner Campaign Expenditure (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025
- Individual Candidate Election Expenses (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025
- Political Parties Campaign Expenditure (Senedd Elections) Code of Practice 2025

Thank you for sharing draft reports into the above Codes. I note these have now been published. These Codes were drafted and translated by the Electoral Commission.

My officials have discussed the points raised in your draft reports with relevant colleagues in the Electoral Commission, who have agreed that the points should be addressed. In light of this view, I intend to withdraw these Codes. My officials will support the Commission in addressing these points to lay revised versions of the Codes.

Thank for your scrutiny of the Codes.

Yours sincerely,



**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

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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.

# Agenda Item 5.4

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid  
Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change  
and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/2508/25

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

30 October 2025

Dear Mike,

I wish to inform the Committee of the intention to consent to the application to Wales of The United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (Exclusions from Market Access Principles: Glue Traps) Regulations 2025. The Regulations will be made by the Secretary of State and will extend to England and Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. The Regulations are subject to the affirmative procedure and would come into force 21 days after the date on which they are made.

On 3 October 2025, I received a letter from Baroness Hayman of Ullock, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, requesting consent to the Regulations. The Regulations are being made under The United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (UKIMA) and will exclude the sale of glue traps from the market access principles within that Act. This means that the market access principles will not apply to, nor affect the operation of, any legislation so far as it prohibits the sale of glue traps in any part of the United Kingdom.

The UK Government has reversed the decision made by the previous UK Government and now supports the exclusion following the Scottish Government's indication it intends to ban the supply of glue traps in Scotland (in addition to use). Defra has now agreed to this as it is recognised it will result in minimal economic impact. In accordance with UKIMA, the UK Minister for Animal Welfare and Biosecurity, has approached the three devolved governments of the UK for consent.

The Regulations do not currently impact upon our policies or operations in Wales. As no evidence has been put forward after two years suggesting the ban on the use of glue traps is insufficient, I do not have any plans at this time to expand the ban in Wales to include sale. Should evidence be presented however that necessitates extending the ban to include sale, with the exclusion in place, there would be no barriers stemming from UKIMA. Given the potential benefit for Wales, I am content on this occasion to provide consent for the Regulations to be made in the UK Parliament.

I have written similarly to the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

[SeneddLJC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales)

31 October 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement and further to my letter of 25 June to draw your attention to the [communiqué](#) which was published by DCMS on 17 October, following the Tourism Inter-Ministerial Group which met on 22 July 2025.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism, Chris Bryant MP, and I represented the Welsh Government.

The agenda enabled discussions on the current state of the tourism sector in their respective jurisdictions. As part of these discussions, I was pleased to be able to highlight the success of:

- the use of the Welsh language in the Hwyl marketing campaign to attract visitors to Wales;
- Visit Wales' weatherproofing fund for visitor attractions;
- the Welcome to Wrexham documentary which has been a significant benefit to Welsh tourism; and
- our focus on promoting business conferences.

I highlighted the introduction in Wales of the bill which gives local authorities the power to raise a visitor levy (which has since been passed into law). I also discussed challenges impacting the tourism sector, including a drop in domestic visitors due to the cost of living, rising National Insurance costs and high energy bills.

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**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

I have copied this letter to the Chairs of the Finance Committee; Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Culture Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,

*Rebecca Evans.*

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

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Mark Drakeford AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
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31 October 2025

Dear Mike,

I can confirm that the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee (F:ISC) meeting was held on 17 October 2025. A communiqué has been published following the meeting: [Communiqués from the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee - GOV.UK](#)

The meeting was chaired by Shona Robison MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government (Scottish Government). I attended alongside James Murray MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (UK Government), and John O'Dowd MLA, Minister of Finance (Northern Ireland Executive). The focus was on improving collaboration, information sharing, and ensuring devolved governments are sighted on key UK Government decisions ahead of the UK Autumn Budget.

There was a shared recognition of the importance of timely information sharing, particularly around the scheduling of UK fiscal events and potential tax and spending decisions including public sector pay. There was also discussion on alleviating child poverty.

On budget flexibilities, I reiterated the Welsh Government's position that devolved governments should be able to operate more flexibly within existing arrangements. I was pleased to secure agreement to undertake joint work looking at ways of improving the operation of the Barnett formula, to report at the next F:ISC. This is an important step in ensuring the UK funding arrangements are transparent and fair.

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I also had the opportunity to raise Wales-specific issues during a separate meeting with the Chief Secretary, including economic investment in Wales and post Brexit Border Control Posts.

Finally, it was agreed that a future F:ISC meeting would include a discussion on barriers to growth. The next meeting is expected to take place in February 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

**Mark Drakeford AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

Jayne Bryant AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

Agenda Item 6.11



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ref: PO/JB/539/2025

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
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30 October 2025

Dear Mike,

I am grateful to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee for your consideration of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill. I have set out my response to your recommendations and your conclusions below. I welcome and appreciate the considered and pragmatic recommendations of the Committee, which will help inform further scrutiny of the Bill as we approach the General Principles debate. I hope this response is of assistance to the Committee on the points raised.

As well as responding to your specific recommendations and conclusions, I also note the concerns of the Committee in relation to how accessible the Bill is, when read on its own. During the drafting process, careful consideration was given to replacing Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, rather than amending it. However, on balance, we felt that amending the 2014 Act was a preferable approach.

It is important to note that the Bill doesn't just amend the 2014 Act, it also amends the Housing Act 1996 and, to a lesser extent, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. As we discussed during my evidence sessions, local authorities and service providers are very familiar with the existing legislation, and amending it draws attention to the proposed changes and areas of the law that are staying the same. It is my view that amendments to the current law will enable smoother implementation.

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**Recommendation 1: The Cabinet Secretary should respond to the report at least two working days before the Stage 1 general principles debate takes place.**

**Response: Accept**

I acknowledge the prompt publication of the Committees findings, and I am pleased to provide this response by your deadline.

**Recommendation 2: The Bill should be amended so that the Welsh Ministers are required to report to the Senedd, by no later than the end of 2028, on the steps taken by the Welsh Government in progressing towards full implementation of the Act. The Bill should also be amended so that a further report is required to be laid before the Senedd by the end of 2029 which provides an update on the progress being made in implementing the Act. This progress report must include details of any delays to implementation that were outlined in the first report and the reasoning for these delays.**

**Response: Accept in principle**

I note the concerns of the Committee in relation to implementation of this legislation (should it be passed by the Senedd and enacted). As discussed during my evidence session and, as you acknowledge in your report, there will be challenges to implementation related to the readiness of the sector and the extensive structural reform required. Your recommendation will provide clarity and transparency to both the Senedd and our stakeholders around progress of the Act and strengthen accountability of the Welsh Ministers. I have instructed my officials to draft an amendment.

**Recommendation 3: The Bill should be amended so that the Welsh Ministers are required to evaluate the Act, including its effectiveness in delivering its objectives, by the end of 2033**

**Response: Accept in principle**

I am committed to evaluating this legislation. The Explanatory Memorandum sets out several ways in which we will monitor implementation, as it is crucial that we understand the impact of the Act in relation to our policy intention. I am happy to make this explicit on the face of the Bill and have instructed my officials to draft an amendment.

**Recommendation 4. The Bill should be amended so that regulations made under section 160A of the Housing Act 1996, as amended by section 35 of the Bill, are subject to the Senedd approval procedure.**

**Response: Accept**

**Recommendation 5. The Bill should be amended so that regulations made under new sections 160D and 160E of the Housing Act 1996, as inserted by section 38 of the Bill, are subject to the Senedd approval procedure.**

**Response: Accept**

I have asked my officials to prepare an amendment so that regulations made under section 160A of the Housing Act 1996, as amended by section 35 of the Bill, are subject to the Senedd approval procedure and that regulations made under new sections 160D and 160E of the Housing Act 1996, as inserted by section 38 of the Bill, are subject to the Senedd approval procedure.

**Conclusion 1. We note the Cabinet Secretary's comments in respect of the Bill's impact on human rights but believe that, as a matter of good practice, an Explanatory Memorandum should always include a commentary on the consideration given to such implications.**

The Welsh Government carries out a full Human Rights assessment before introduction of any Bill as part of its thorough assessment of legislative competence. The Senedd's Business Committee are considering explanatory materials as part of their review of the legislative scrutiny processes for Public Bills and Member Bills, which the Welsh Government is engaging with.

**Conclusion 2. While we acknowledge the reasoning provided by the Cabinet Secretary as to why a full and final list of public bodies expected to be subject to the 'ask and act duty' is not already specified on the face of the Bill, we consider this to be regrettable from an accessibility of law point of view.**

It is important to note that should the list be amended in the future, any amendment will be to the face of the Bill, which may address the concerns of the Committee in relation to accessibility.

Once again, I am grateful for the Committee's consideration of the Bill. I look forward to continuing to work with Committee Members as we proceed through the Senedd scrutiny process. I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Finance Committee and Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government



Ref: PO/JB/539/2025

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair  
Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

30 October 2025

Dear Peredur,

I am grateful to the Finance Committee for your consideration of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill and the conclusion that you are broadly content with the financial implications of the Bill, as set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment, subject to the comments and recommendations in your report. Of course, should there be significant changes to the Regulatory Impact Assessment because of the recommendations made in your report, I would welcome further consideration of the Committee.

I have set out my response to your recommendations below.

**Recommendation 1: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary conducts a sensitivity analysis in relation to the public sector cost of homelessness showing the potential range of costs, and that this information is included in an updated Regulatory Impact Assessment, after Stage 2.**

**Response: Accept**

I note the concerns of the Committee that we have been unable to estimate the benefits of individual sections of the Bill and the range of uncertainty within our estimates. As you note, we have estimated the benefits of the Bill in its entirety, using switching analysis of a core scenario related to homelessness prevention and relief rates over time.

I am confident that we have exhausted available evidence sources for our estimates and maintained high standards of rigour within our evidential standards. Following publication of a draft Regulatory Impact Assessment to support our White Paper consultation, we made significant revisions to our estimates based on feedback from stakeholders.

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Based on the data we have, I am of the strong view that the 3% growth rate estimate in the RIA represents the best estimate despite the data issues we have flagged. However, in light of your recommendation, I have instructed my officials to consider different growth rate assumptions and the impact these may have on the cost projections. I will include this information in the revised RIA at the end of Stage 2.

**Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary:**

- **confirms what she considers to be the initial years of the implementation period in terms of the provision of Welsh Government funding to support local authorities, and**
- **provides assurances that the Welsh Government will continue to provide funding to support local authorities should funding deficits arise as a result of financial benefits not being realised at the pace identified in the Regulatory Impact Assessment.**

**Response: Accept in principle**

**Implementation period**

The RIA assumes a ten-year implementation period for the proposed reforms and takes account of costs and benefits across this period. Implementation will be phased and is likely to be grouped into four main stages.

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Pre-implementation period</b>	Activity to prepare for transition between Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Act.	Following Royal Assent (approx. March 2026 and March 2027)
<b>Phase 1</b>	Prevention, support and allocations provisions brought into force.	2027-2028
<b>Phase 2</b>	Implementation of “ask and act.”	2028-2029
<b>Phase 3</b>	Abolition of the priority need and intentionality tests.	By or before 2030-2031

The phased approach will allow the prioritisation of provisions aimed at increasing prevention and flow out of the system (to relieve the pressure the system is currently experiencing) before enacting other reforms which may make new demands on the system, such as the changes proposed to the priority need and intentionality tests. I expect the wider financial benefits of the Bill to outweigh the costs by 2028-2029 but recognise that, as the Bill will not be fully implemented at this stage, specific, targeted investment for phase 3 will be required until full implementation is complete before or by 2030-2031.

## Funding

Future funding will be a matter for future Governments. However, I accept in principle that a future Welsh Government should continue to provide funding to support local authorities should funding deficits arise as a result of financial benefits not being realised at the pace identified in the Regulatory Impact Assessment.

**Recommendation 3: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary provides:**

- a breakdown of the additional funding provided to local authorities in preparation for the Bill, to date, including the activities undertaken with this funding, and;
- further details about how, and when, additional funding to support implementation of the Bill will be distributed to local authorities to reflect their individual needs.

### **Response: Accept in principle**

Work on this Bill is rooted in stakeholder engagement dating back almost a decade and was expedited, in part by the response of the Welsh Government to the Covid-19 pandemic and our 'no one left out' policy. This policy transformed our response to homelessness, almost overnight, and the Bill is a key lever in ensuring the transformation made at that time, is sustained. In the period since the pandemic, we have supported local authorities to sustain this practice through their statutory homelessness response, by providing additional grant funding towards temporary accommodation, increased prevention and strategic co-ordination. This funding supplemented local authority's funding awarded through the Local Government Revenue Support Grant settlement. From 2025/26, this grant funding, totalling £21.32m, was moved into the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) in recognition of it supporting the statutory homelessness response.

I recognise that local authorities will need to undertake pre-implementation activities to prepare for the new legislation and the RIA sets out an estimated cost of just over £2 million pounds for this within the next financial year. The Committee will note that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language will set out the Welsh Government's detailed draft budget for 2026-27 on 3 November and I will be happy to update the Committee following that announcement.

**Recommendation 4: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary provides details of restructuring activities already underway in some local authorities in preparation for the Bill's implementation, including the costs that have already been incurred, and confirms whether these costs are reflected in the Regulatory Impact Assessment.**

### **Response: Accept in principle**

Several local authorities have begun preparation for implementation of this Bill. We understand numerous authorities are now working to a six-month prevention period, including (but not limited to) Ynys Mon, Neath Port Talbot, Cyngor Gwynedd, Wrexham and Cardiff. Ynys Mon are also utilising an online system to make personal housing plans more accessible in preparation for the introduction of Prevention, Support and Accommodation Plans. Cyngor Gwynedd have integrated housing support and homelessness functions into a single role providing early, proactive support. We are aware of several authorities improving their multi agency partnership work and strengthening relationships with housing providers in readiness for the allocations provisions.

Whilst we encourage and commend the local authorities who are undertaking this work, we have not required them to do so and we do not, therefore, have any information on the costs of these changes and they are not included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment. We have estimated the full cost of implementation of the reforms and have not adjusted for any work already undertaken by particular authorities to deliver the legislation. We will continue to engage closely with local authorities and any resulting data will inform further revision of the RIA.

**Recommendation 5: In relation to Common Housing Registers, the Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary works with local authorities to:**

- agree the standardised information to be included in all registers and identify any gaps in the information currently collected by existing registers, and
- confirm whether the requirement to maintain a Common Housing Register remains cost neutral for those local authorities currently operating registers.

**Response: Accept**

The Bill will allow Welsh Ministers to introduce regulations specifically related to technical aspects of Common Housing Registers, including specifying the information they must hold. Such regulations will be developed with close engagement with local authorities to determine the types of information required to ensure effective prioritisation of applicants and the allocation of accommodation. This will ensure minimum standardised information requirements are established across all local authorities across Wales. Changes can be made over time in response to any gaps identified in the future.

The purpose of Common Housing Registers is to ensure a single accessible route for people to apply for social housing within an area. However, a single shared register also promotes efficiency and potential resource savings for local authorities and their housing partners. I do not believe this proposal will require additional costs for local authorities already operating Common Housing Registers.

My officials are in the process of finalising our pre-implementation workplan for financial year 2026-2027. It prioritises further stakeholder engagement on Part 2 of the Bill, including our commitment to Common Housing Registers. In light of your recommendation, we will seek to expedite this engagement and I will update the Committee further as this work progresses.

**Recommendation 6: The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary clarifies her approach to monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill, including the proposed timescales.**

**Response: Accept**

I was pleased to accept in principle, two recommendations from the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and a recommendation from the Local Government and Housing Committee in relation to post implementation review. My officials are preparing amendments in relation to these recommendations, which I believe assist in clarifying our approach to monitoring and review of the legislation. As I outlined during my evidence session, we will consider the actual costs and benefits as part of the post-implementation review and our ongoing evaluation work.

I am grateful to the Finance Committee for your recommendations, and I hope you are assured of my commitment to robustly assess the costs of this Bill, alongside, its significant benefits. I trust this response helps to inform further scrutiny of the Bill as we approach the General Principles debate and I hope it is of assistance to the Committee on the points raised.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee and Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

I look forward to continuing to work with Committee Members as we proceed through the Senedd scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government