

# Agenda – Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

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Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Robert Donovan
Meeting date: 11 November 2021	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.30	0300 200 6565
	<a href="mailto:SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales">SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales</a>

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In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on [www.senedd.tv](http://www.senedd.tv)

## Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest  
(09.30)

2 Paper(s) to note  
(09.30)

2.1 Letter from Ben Cottam, Head of Wales, Federation Small Businesses  
(Pages 1 – 3)

Attached Documents:

Additional information from Ben Cottam following the committee meeting on  
30 September 2021

2.2 Letter from the Minister for Climate Change

(Pages 4 – 5)



Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Climate Change re The Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment No 2) Regulations 2021

### **2.3 Letter from Chair of Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to the Minister for Finance and Local Government**

(Pages 6 – 7)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee re the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill

### **2.4 Letter from Minister for Finance and Local Government to the Chair Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

(Pages 8 – 9)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Minister for Finance and Local Government re the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill

### **2.5 Letter from the Minister for Economy**

(Pages 10 – 12)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Economy re the Free Trade Agreement between the UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway

### **2.6 Letter from Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee**

(Pages 13 – 15)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee re the Equality

and Social Justice Committee's forthcoming Inquiry into childcare and parental employment

### **3 General Ministerial Scrutiny – Minister for Economy**

(09.30–11.00)

(Pages 16 – 32)

Vaughan Gething MS

Sioned Evans, Director, Business and Regions

Andrew Gwatkin, Director, International Relations and Trade

Timothy Render, Director, Land, Nature and Food

Peter Ryland, Chief Executive WEFO

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

### **Break (11.00–11.10)**

### **4 Priorities for the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee – Farming organisations**

(11.10–12.25)

(Pages 33 – 44)

Gareth Parry, Senior Policy and Communications Officer, Farmers' Union of Wales

Dylan Morgan, Head of Policy, National Farmers' Union Wales

George Dunn, Chief Executive, Tenant Farmers Association

Gwyn Howells, Chief Executive, Meat Promotion Wales

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

### **Break (12.25–12.35)**

**5 Priorities for the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee –  
Animal Welfare**

(12.35–13.20)

Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust

Madison Rogers, Cats Protection, representing Companion Animal Welfare  
Group Wales

Chris O'Brien, Senior Public Affairs and Media Manager, RSPCA Wales

**6 Consideration of Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Rating  
(Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved  
Companies) Bill**

(13.20–13.30)

(Pages 45 – 50)

Attached Documents:

Legal Advice Note

**7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the  
public for the remainder of the meeting**

(13.30)

**8 Private**

(13.30–13.40)

Consideration of evidence following the meeting

**9 Consideration of Draft Report on the Legislative Consent  
Memorandum on the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors  
Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill**

(13.40–13.50)

(Pages 51 – 56)

Attached Documents:

Draft Report

## **10 Consideration of Forward Work Programme Autumn 2021 – Spring 2022**

(13.50–14.00)

(Pages 57 – 61)

Attached Documents:

Forward Work Programme Autumn 2021 – Spring 2022

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Paul Davies MS  
Chair, Economy, Trade & Rural Affairs Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Chair

I was grateful to the Committee for the invitation and opportunity to attend the session on 30<sup>th</sup> September to discuss some of the issues facing smaller business in Wales during what is clearly a testing time. We are pleased that the Committee chose to use what I know is restricted time to understand these issues.

During the session, the issue of Welsh Government's Economic Contract and the forthcoming 'refresh' of that contract was raised and at the request of Carolyn Thomas MS, I undertook to provide the Committee with FSB perspectives on the Contract and what we'd indicated we'd like to see reflected.

For context, when the Contract was launched by Ken Skates MS during his time as Minister for Economy, FSB was supportive of the 'something for something' approach which Welsh Government was adopting in some areas of support. We feel it is reasonable that in return for certain forms of business support, there can be an expectation of the development of positive behaviours and practices whether for the environment, communities or workforces.

One of the challenges surrounding the Contract has been the understanding of businesses as to its purpose. In our experience, there have been very different interpretations among business as to the purpose of the Contract and indeed, also on occasions, different interpretations among officials and agencies. Furthermore, the Contract hasn't been supported to-date by a clear narrative or messaging as to its purpose and the change it is trying to drive. The refresh is an opportunity to correct that and outline clear purpose.

To some extent the terminology is confusing in that unlike most contracts businesses will be familiar with, the Contract doesn't have any binding legal status. It has traditionally reflected a raft

of measures and activities which should or could be undertaken by business in return for support rather than the range of activities to which Welsh Government and its agencies commit to in supporting that business. Getting better clarity on that should be part of the refresh and the subsequent communication of the Contract.

We have also consistently made the point about the proportionality of the Contract – proportional both in terms of business size as well as proportional in terms of the support sought. There are two examples in this respect.

Within the element of the contract which focuses on Fair Work for instance, it is important to reflect a number of ways in which employee voice can be reinforced. While we encourage employers to explore engagement with formal representation such as through Trade Unions, this is not necessarily appropriate for all businesses or their employees. We feel that the Contract needs to recognise the landscape of different engagement structures. It is important that the contract is used to guide businesses on a journey whether it be on Fair Work or in other areas such as decarbonisation for instance.

With regard to proportionality of support, we have made the point that the expectation of change should not be out of proportion with the level of the support being offered by Welsh Government. We share a hope with Government that the Contract could be used to drive positive change, but it's obviously important that the onus on the business should not make it less attractive than seeking that support elsewhere – particularly with regard to funding support - or we will lose the value of that relationship and driving those behaviours. Effectively, Welsh Government needs to demonstrate itself as a 'partner for growth' in terms of the relationship.

Because of the substantial support administered by Welsh Government to businesses over the last 18 months under interventions such as the Economic Resilience Fund, many more businesses will now be subject to the Economic Contract. We are not aware of the collation by officials of particular areas of action by businesses under the contract or what the intelligence gathered tells us about where businesses currently are regarding the themes covered within the Contract. However, this would be helpful to understand where support is needed and to better understand how businesses perceive the relationship they have with Welsh Government under the Contract.

The Contract is not on its own as a tool which seeks to help promote positive behaviours and change within business. The Good Business Charter is an initiative of the Good Business Foundation and is supported and promoted by FSB and other organisations. We have asserted previously that it would be helpful to have some 'read-across' between the Contract and the Charter to ensure that if a business adopts the Good Business Charter, this can be recognised within the Economic Contract. Not to do so seems to duplicate and miss an opportunity. We have not yet had confirmation from Welsh Government on how they see the contract interacting with something like the Good Business Charter.

One of the challenges for the Contract in the future will be ensuring it remains targeted at particular behaviours and desired outputs. The more Welsh Government seeks to leverage the Contract to gain outcomes for a range of policy areas, the more unwieldy and perhaps confusing the Contract may become. However, we are confident that the Contract is currently suitably targeted.

We welcome the approach taken by civil servants in developing the Contract and conversations we have with them have been productive and positive. The refresh of the Contract provides an opportunity to understand how it will be used in the context of economic recovery from the Pandemic, the drive to decarbonization as well as developing the Welsh economy.

However, for it to be successful, businesses need to be clear about what Welsh Government is offering within the Contract and that has to be seen as an attractive partnership. In the forthcoming refresh, there needs to be clear messaging on what the Contract is (and what it is not), the intention of the Contract and what is expected of businesses as well as the positive offering of Government.

I hope this note is helpful and we look forward to working with the Committee further as Welsh businesses seek to recover from the Pandemic.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Cottam'.

Ben Cottam  
Head of Wales, FSB



Paul Davies MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

[Paul.Davies@senedd.wales](mailto:Paul.Davies@senedd.wales)

15 October 2021

Dear Paul

### The Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment No 2) Regulations 2021

The Secretary of State proposes to make the above named Statutory Instrument (SI) under powers conferred by Articles 5(3), 30(1), 37(5), 40(3), 41(3), 42(3), 72(3) and 105(6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council on protective measures against pests of plants. The SI is to apply to England, Scotland and Wales and its purpose is to protect biosecurity and support trade between Great Britain (“GB”) and relevant third countries by introducing further protective measures for at-risk plant goods.

The SI amends Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 to:

- Introduce GB-wide measures against the import of host plants and other relevant regulated goods for certain pests. These measures apply to specific third countries that pose an unacceptable level of risk to GB.
- Deregulate pests which have been assessed as being of no biosecurity risk to GB, as their continued regulation is no longer technically unjustified.

I am writing to let you know I gave my consent to the Secretary of State to the application of this SI to Wales. I understand the SI will be laid before the Houses of Parliament on 21 October and will be subject to the negative procedure.

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[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales)

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.

In circumstances when we are required to consider and amend legislation within a tight timeframe and with finite resources, the Welsh Government's general principal is that, if appropriate, we permit the UK Government to legislate on our behalf. Should consent be withheld, these corrections will need to be made through legislation made by the Welsh Government. There is insufficient time and resources to be able to draft and lay such regulations at the same time as the UK Government and delay would present a risk to our biosecurity.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution, the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, and the Chairs of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change

**Legislation, Justice and  
Constitution Committee**

**Welsh Parliament**  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN  
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Rebecca Evans MS  
Minister for Finance and Local Government

19 October 2021

Dear Rebecca

**Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill**

We considered the Legislative Consent Memorandum (the Memorandum) on the Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill (the Bill) at our meeting on Monday of this week. There are two important matters, raising points of transparency and accessibility, that we wish to raise with you before we consider how we will report on the Memorandum.

First, the Memorandum refers to the Bill as introduced in the House of Commons on 12 May 2021 and provides a link to the Bill as introduced. However, clause 1 in that version of the Bill does not apply to Wales.

On 7 July 2021, you published a written statement confirming the Welsh Government's intention to legislate "by seeking to include provisions for Wales in the UK Government's Rating (Coronavirus) and Directors Disqualification (Dissolved Companies) Bill... which will operate to disregard Covid-19 appeals on the basis of a...[material change of circumstances]."

The UK Government subsequently amended the Bill at Report Stage in the House of Commons on 9 September 2021 to extend the application of clause 1 of the Bill to Wales. In the explanatory notes accompanying the Bill as introduced into the House of Lords on 10 September, the UK Government stated "The [UK] Government, at the request of the Welsh Government, tabled amendments to the Bill at Commons Report stage to extend application of Clause 1 to non-domestic rating lists compiled for the purposes of business rates in Wales (as well as lists for England)."

These matters are not referred to at all in the Memorandum, which was laid on 21 September 2021, and we would welcome your explanation for their omission.

Secondly, in your July written statement you said "We also intend to introduce regulations in Wales which will have a similar effect to the provisions to be included in the UK Bill, and those regulations would apply until such time as the UK Bill becomes law." As far as we are aware, these regulations have not been made. We have noted that UK Ministers made The Valuation for Rating (Coronavirus) (England) Regulations 2021 in March, and that clause 1(9) of the Bill will revoke the Regulations if and when the Bill is enacted. We would also welcome clarity on this matter, including the current situation regarding the regulations referred to in your written statement.

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

I would be grateful to receive your reply by 2 November 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw Irranca-Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Huw Irranca-Davies  
Chair



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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

Huw Irranca-Davies MS  
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
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[Private.office@senedd.wales](mailto:Private.office@senedd.wales)

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>

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

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



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/VG/3543/21

Paul Davies MS  
Chair, Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
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2 November 2021

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2021 in which you request more information on the Free Trade Agreement between the UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway.

Trade between Wales and Iceland and Norway is relatively low. Trade in goods with Norway and Iceland accounted for nearly 1.5% of Welsh goods trade in the year ending June 2021 compared to the EU that accounts for around 51.1% of Welsh goods trade. There is no data available on the value of trade between Wales and Liechtenstein. A macroeconomic assessment is attached to this letter under Annex A. Given these countries do not represent significant import or export markets for Wales and the goods element of the deal predominately aims to create greater continuity from when we were members of the EU, no full assessment of the impact of the deal has been carried out.

Throughout the negotiations, my officials met with the Chief Negotiator for the deal as the negotiations progressed, as well as receiving updates from individual UK Government policy teams. This provided us with an opportunity to understand and highlight any elements of the negotiations that did not align to our own priorities or domestic policy. However, given the nature of the deal, representations to seek changes to the UK Government's negotiating priorities, or to any of the provisions negotiated, were not necessary. My officials were also able to consider the draft text of the chapters relating to devolved matters and its potential impact on Wales. As this agreement results from renegotiations and aligns trading arrangements with the terms of the UK-EU Trade and Co-Operation Agreement, it means there will be minimal changes for our businesses already trading with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. However, it is positive that the deal includes dedicated chapters on digital trade and small businesses. This is the first time any trade agreement with these three European countries has included standalone chapters covering these areas.

The only legislative change identified to date to implement this agreement relates to a procurement chapter within the FTA that needs to be added to UK international trade agreement schedules in domestic procurement regulations. The following pieces of domestic legislation will require amendments in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: the Public Contracts Regulations 2015; the Utilities Contracts regulations 2016 and the

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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.

Concession Contracts Regulations 2016. The Cabinet Office propose to make the amendments through a statutory instrument under section 2 of the Trade Act 2021.

I look forward to attending the next Committee meeting on 11 November.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy

## Macroeconomic Assessment of Welsh Goods Trade with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein

Latest available data for the year ending June 2021, show the value of Welsh goods trade with Norway and Iceland is relatively low, valued at around £398.5m and £9.0m respectively. This accounts for around 1.46% and 0.03% of total Welsh goods trade. There is no data available on the value of goods trade between Wales and Liechtenstein.

Analysis<sup>1</sup> suggests that our goods exports to Norway are dominated by a small number of sectors, with 'Iron & steel', 'Power generating machinery & equipment', and 'Road vehicles' accounting for 44.9% of Wales' total goods exports to Norway. On the import side, over 75% of our imports from Norway are within the 'Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials' sector. Evidence indicates that trade within this sector involves goods moving in and out of Wales with little domestic processing, therefore indicating limited opportunities within this sector to contribute to employment and value added in Wales.

For Iceland, top export sectors include 'Cereals & cereal preparations', 'Professional, scientific & controlling appliances', and 'Buildings, plumbing, heating & lighting fixtures', which combined account for around 27.0% of total Welsh goods exports to Iceland. On the imports side, 'Animal oils & fats' account for around a third (33.0%) of our total goods imports from Iceland. It should however be noted that the low value of imports and exports means the relative importance of sectors can be volatile, therefore care needs to be taken to avoid over-interpretation of the available data.

Given the low value of goods trade and limited availability of data, a proportionate approach is undertaken with regards to a macroeconomic assessment of the FTA. Under this approach a high level assessment of the available trade flow data is undertaken, however the agreement doesn't meet the criteria for a full assessment based on economic modelling. This is broadly in line with the approach undertaken by UK Government: [Norway, Iceland & Liechtenstein Impact Assessment \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

### Value of Welsh Goods Trade with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein

Country	Value of Goods Exports (% of total Welsh goods exports)	Ranking	Value of Goods Imports (% of total Welsh goods imports)	Ranking
Norway	£103.2m (0.8%)	22 <sup>nd</sup>	£295.3m (2.1%)	14 <sup>th</sup>
Iceland	£6.2m (0.05%)	78 <sup>th</sup>	£2.8m (0.02%)	79 <sup>th</sup>
Liechtenstein	No data available		No data available	

Source: HMRC RTS, Year ending June 2021.

Please note, the table above shows the value of goods trade with each individual country for the latest available period (year ending June 2021), therefore there may reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. There continues to be uncertainty around the future trajectory of the recovery in Welsh goods trade, therefore these figures should be interpreted carefully.

<sup>1</sup> This analysis is based on a three year average (2018-2020) to reduce the impact of trade volatility.

Paul Davies MS

Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

4 November 2021

Dear Paul,

### **Childcare and parental employment: the pandemic and beyond**

In my letter of August 10<sup>th</sup>, I let you know that the Equality and Social Justice Committee had agreed to scope out an inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women in the workplace. This work has now begun; the Committee is undertaking an inquiry into childcare and parental employment: the pandemic and beyond. The inquiry will focus on the barriers that childcare provision can present for parents, particularly women, entering and progressing in the labour market.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are provided at annex A, and details of evidence gathering at annex B.

Aspects of the inquiry which relate to your Committee's remit may be of interest to your Members. So I would like to invite your Members to consider whether there are any points they would like to raise in relation to our terms of reference, or any involvement they would like to have in our stakeholder and citizen engagement work.

#### Formal meeting evidence and scrutiny sessions

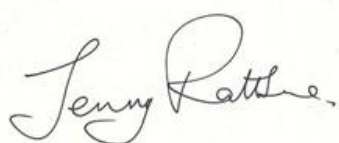
I propose that Sarah Murphy, as a Member on both our Committees, acts as a rapporteur to take forward any lines of questioning proposed by your Members at our formal evidence gathering and scrutiny sessions.

#### Stakeholder and citizen engagement

If any of your Members would like to attend the roundtable discussion or any of the planned focus groups in an observer capacity, please ask your Clerking team to liaise with mine to make arrangements. I am also happy to share with your Members the notes from these events to inform your future work.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these issues. I will keep you updated as the inquiry progresses.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

## Annex A

### Terms of reference

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The terms of reference for the inquiry are to examine:

- The extent to which current childcare provision in Wales sufficiently supports parents, particularly mothers, to enter, remain and progress in employment, and what changes might be needed to improve the effectiveness of childcare provision in doing this.
- What impact the Childcare Offer in particular has had in achieving the Welsh Government's objective of "helping parents, particularly mothers, to return to work or increase the hours they work".
- The impact of limited childcare availability on Wales' productivity levels.
- How childcare arrangements have affected parental employment during the coronavirus pandemic, particularly in relation to mothers. What lessons might be applied to provide better support during any future lockdowns or increased restrictions.
- Whether Welsh Government-funded childcare provision is flexible enough to support employment of parents, particularly mothers, in different demographic groups and experiencing different circumstances.
- The impact of high-quality formal childcare provision on reducing the attainment gap, and the potential benefits of extending childcare provision to tackle inequalities.
- What Wales can learn from other models of childcare provision operating in the rest of the UK and internationally and emerging practice in terms of supporting parental employment, and the extent to which these models might be transferrable to the Welsh context.
- How financial and practical implications such as availability of childcare would need to be considered by the Welsh Government in any future policy developments to extend childcare provision.



## Annex B

### Evidence gathering

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Monday 15 November	Stakeholder evidence panels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Organisations campaigning on childcare</li><li>▪ Childcare providers</li><li>▪ Childcare provision from outside Wales</li></ul>
Monday 22 November	Roundtable discussion with organisations such as childcare providers, organisations who campaign around childcare, employers, trade unions.
Monday 29 November (TBC)	Evidence panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Children's Commissioner for Wales</li><li>▪ Equality and Human Rights Commissioner</li></ul> Scrutiny session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Deputy Minister for Social Services</li></ul>
Various dates throughout November	A series of online and face-to-face focus groups with parents and partner organisations from across Wales

# Agenda Item 3

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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