

# Agenda – Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

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| Meeting Venue:  | For further information contact:                                   |
| Hybrid – Committee Room 5, Tŷ Hywel<br>and videoconference via Zoom | P Gareth Williams<br>Committee Clerk                               |
| Meeting date: 25 November 2025                                      | 0300 200 6565  |
| Meeting time: 09.30   | <a href="mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales">SeneddLJC@senedd.wales</a> |

## Hybrid

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### Public meeting

(09.30 – 10.00)

**1 Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**  
(09.30)

**2 Instruments that raise issues to be reported to the Senedd under  
Standing Order 21.7**  
(09.30 – 09.35)

**2.1 SL(6)673 – The Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act  
2025 (Commencement and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2025**

(Pages 1 – 2)

[Order](#)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 1 – Draft report

**3 Instruments that raise issues to be reported to the Senedd under  
Standing Order 21.2 or 21.3**  
(09.35 – 09.40)

**3.1 SL(6)674 – The Official Controls (Import of High-Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

(Pages 3 – 5)

[Regulations](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 2 – Draft report

**Affirmative Resolution Instruments**

**3.2 SL(6)675 – The Climate Change (Carbon Budget) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

(Pages 6 – 7)

[Regulations](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 3 – Draft report

**3.3 SL(6)676 – The Climate Change (Net Welsh Emissions Account Credit Limit) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

(Pages 8 – 9)

[Regulations](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 4 – Draft report

**4 Instruments that raise issues to be reported to the Senedd under Standing Order 21.7 – previously considered**

(09.40 – 09.45)

**5 Instruments that raise issues to be reported to the Senedd under Standing Order 21.2 or 21.3 – previously considered**

(09.45 – 09.50)

**5.1 SL(6)661 – The Infrastructure Consent (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

(Pages 10 – 13)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 5 – Report

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 6 – Welsh Government response

**5.2 SL(6)667 – The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

(Pages 14 – 17)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 7 – Report

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 8 – Welsh Government response

**6 Inter–Institutional Relations Agreement**

(09.50 – 09.55)

**6.1 Correspondence from the Welsh Government: Meetings of inter–ministerial groups**

(Pages 18 – 20)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 9 – Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: Inter–Ministerial Standing Committee, 19 November 2025

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 10 – Written Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education: UK Education Ministers Council Meeting, 21 November 2025

**6.2 Correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: The Organic Production (Amendment) Regulations 2025**

(Page 21)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 11 – Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, 19 November 2025

## **7 Papers to note**

(09.55 – 10.00)

### **7.1 Correspondence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery: The Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2026–27**

(Pages 22 – 31)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 12 – Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, 17 November 2025

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 13 – Letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, 16 September 2025

### **7.2 Written Statement by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: Consultation on draft Air Quality Target Regulations for fine particulate matter**

(Pages 32 – 33)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 14 – Written Statement by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, 17 November 2025

### **7.3 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales: The Bus Services (Wales) Bill – The Wales Centre for Public Policy Report**

(Pages 34 – 35)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 15 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, 17 November 2025

**7.4 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill**

(Pages 36 – 40)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 16 – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, 18 November 2025

**7.5 Correspondence to the Business Committee: Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes: publication of pre-introduction Bills**

(Pages 41 – 42)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 17 – Letter to the Business Committee, 14 November 2025

**7.6 Correspondence from the Welsh Government: The Welsh Government's response to the Committee's report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memoranda on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**

(Pages 43 – 46)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 18 – Welsh Government response, 18 November 2025

**7.7 Written Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education: Consultation on the School Funding, Budget Statements and Outturn Statements (Wales) Regulations 2026**

(Page 47)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)–33–25 – Paper 19 – Written Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, 20 November 2025

**7.8 Correspondence from the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing: The Welsh Government's response to the Committee's report on the Welsh**

**Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum  
(Memorandum No. 5) on the Mental Health Bill**

(Page 48)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 20 – Letter from the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, 21 November 2025

**7.9 Correspondence from the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing:  
Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 3) on  
the Tobacco and Vapes Bill**

(Pages 49 – 50)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 21 – Letter from the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, 21 November 2025

**8 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(vi) and (ix) to resolve to  
exclude the public from the remainder of today's meeting  
(10.00)**

**Private meeting**

(10.00 – 10.30)

**9 British Sign Language (Wales) Bill: Draft report**

(10.00 – 10.15)

(Pages 51 – 71)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 22 – Draft report

**10 Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill: Draft report**

(10.15 – 10.25)

(Pages 72 – 105)

Attached Documents:

LJC(6)-33-25 – Paper 23 – Draft report

**11 Committee update and forward look: Oral update**  
(10.25 - 10.30)

## **SL(6)673 – The Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025 (Commencement and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2025**

### **Background and Purpose**

The Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025 (“the 2025 Act”) seeks to bring together and formalise the procedural arrangements for making Welsh subordinate legislation, and the requirements for publishing Acts of the Senedd and Welsh statutory instruments and other subordinate legislation that is not made by statutory instrument. It is also intended to improve the accessibility of Welsh law by repealing, amending and otherwise disapplying in relation to Wales enactments that are no longer of practical utility or benefit; and making amendments to the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 (“the 2019 Act”).

This Order brings into force sections 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8 of, and Schedule 3 to, the 2025 Act on 1 January 2026.

Section 1 of the 2025 Act amends the 2019 Act by inserting a new Part 2A that makes provision about Welsh statutory instruments and the Senedd procedures for Welsh subordinate legislation.

Section 3 of the 2025 Act amends the 2019 Act by inserting a new Part 2B that makes provision about the publication, preservation, numbering and classification of Acts of Senedd Cymru, Welsh statutory instruments and other subordinate legislation made by the Welsh Ministers.

Section 5 of the 2025 Act amends the 2019 Act by inserting a new section 42A that requires the Counsel General to review the operation and effect of new Parts 2A and 2B of the 2019 Act.

Section 6 of the 2025 Act amends section 2 of the 2019 Act so that programmes to improve the accessibility of Welsh law must include proposals for correcting any errors or resolving any ambiguities in Welsh law.

Section 8 of, and Schedule 3 to, the 2025 Act make consequential amendments to the 2019 Act.

The Counsel General and Minister for Delivery wrote to the Committee on 6 November 2025 to inform the Committee that the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs had made this Order.

### **Procedure**

No procedure.



## Scrutiny under Standing Order 21.7

The following point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.7 in respect of this Order.

1. It is noted that the Order brings into force section 1 of the 2025 Act, which inserts a new Part 2A into the 2019 Act. This replaces the existing Senedd scrutiny procedures for Welsh statutory instruments with the following:
  - a) the Approval Procedure replaces the 'draft affirmative' procedure so a statutory instrument will only become law if it is approved by a vote in the Senedd;
  - b) the Confirmation Procedure replaces the 'made affirmative' procedure meaning that a statutory instrument will become law when it is made, but will only remain in force if it is confirmed in a vote by the Senedd within a set period of time; and
  - c) the Annulment Procedure replaces the 'negative procedure' where the statutory instrument becomes law when it is made but can be annulled by the Senedd up to 40 days after it is laid.

The new procedures do not apply to subordinate legislation made before 1 January 2026 or contained in a statutory instrument laid before the Senedd in draft before that date.

## Government response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

### Legal Advisers

**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

**12 November 2025**



## **SL(6)674 – The Official Controls (Import of High-Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

### **Background and Purpose**

These Regulations amend imported food legislation which was retained by the UK on its departure from the EU.

Assimilated Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 on the temporary increase of official controls and emergency measures governing the entry into the Union of certain goods from certain third countries ("Regulation 2019/1793") lays down provisions that apply to certain higher risk food and feed commodities not of animal origin on entry into Great Britain.

The Annexes to Regulation 2019/1793 contain lists of food and feed commodities which are either subjected to a temporary increase in official controls, subject to emergency measures or subject to suspension of entry into Great Britain.

These Regulations make changes to the Annexes to provide for the following:

- commodities to be removed from controls;
- commodities to be subject to reduced controls;
- commodities to be subject to increased controls; and
- commodities to require new controls.

The Regulations also update the presentation of the codes used to identify the commodities subject to controls to align with the UK's Integrated Tariff system and amend footnotes.

### **Procedure**

Negative.

These Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers before they were laid before the Senedd. The Senedd can annul the Regulations within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of the date they were laid before the Senedd.

### **Technical Scrutiny**

The following points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.



### 1. Standing Order 21.2(vii) – that there appear to be inconsistencies between the meaning of its English and Welsh texts.

In Schedule 1, in the new Annex 1, in Table 1, there is a difference between the English and Welsh versions. In the English version, in the entry for “Uzbekistan”, in the second column, after “Dried apricots” it notes “(Food and feed)”. However, in the Welsh version of the corresponding place, after “Dried apricots” it only notes “**(Food)**” which is also formatted differently in bold. In addition, in the Welsh version of that entry for “Uzbekistan”, in the second column, it also notes “**(Food)**” in bold immediately after “Apricots, otherwise prepared or preserved” although no words appear in the English version.

### 2. Standing Order 21.2(vii) – that there appear to be inconsistencies between the meaning of its English and Welsh texts.

In Schedule 1, in the new Annex 1, in Table 1, there is a difference between the English and Welsh versions. In the English version, in the entry for “Uzbekistan”, the abbreviation “(UZ)” is missing in the first column after the name of that country although it is found in the corresponding place in the Welsh version. In this regard, all the other entries in that Table include the relevant abbreviation after the names of the countries in both the English and Welsh versions.

### 3. Standing Order 21.2(vii) – that there appear to be inconsistencies between the meaning of its English and Welsh texts.

In Schedule 2, in the new Annex 2, in Table 1, there is a difference between the English and Welsh versions. In the English version, in the entry for “India”, in the row for “Groundnuts (peanuts), otherwise prepared or preserved”, in the second column, it notes “**(Food and feed)**”. But in the Welsh version, in the corresponding entry, those words appear in Welsh as “**(Bwyd a bwyd anifeiliaid)**” rather than in English. The new Table 1 is being inserted into legislation that was not made bilingually in English and Welsh, therefore those words should be noted in the English language in both the English and Welsh versions of these Regulations.

## Merits Scrutiny

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

## Welsh Government response

A Welsh Government response is required.

### Legal Advisers

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

19 November 2025



Senedd Cymru

Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad

Welsh Parliament

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Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

# Agenda Item 3.2

## **SL(6)675 – The Climate Change (Carbon Budget) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

### **Background and Purpose**

These Regulations form part of a suite of regulations made under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (“the 2016 Act”) that are referred to collectively as the Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2025.

Part 2 of the 2016 Act requires the Welsh Ministers to meet targets for reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales.

Section 31(1) of the 2016 Act requires that the Welsh Ministers set carbon budgets for each 5-year budgetary period between 2016 and 2050.

Regulation 3 sets the carbon budget for the budgetary period 2031-2035 so it is limited to an average of 73% lower than the baseline.

Before setting carbon budgets in regulations, the Welsh Ministers must request, and take into account, advice from the Committee on Climate Change (“the CCC”). In May 2025, the CCC provided their advice to Welsh Ministers on the level of Wales’ fourth carbon budget for the five-year period between 2031 to 2035 (“Carbon Budget 4”). In the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Regulations, the Welsh Government states that the purpose of these regulations is to accept the CCC’s recommended level and set Carbon Budget 4 at an average of 73% lower than the baseline.

### **Procedure**

Draft Affirmative

The Welsh Ministers have laid a draft of the Regulations before the Senedd. The Welsh Ministers cannot make the Regulations unless the Senedd approves the draft Regulations.

### **Technical Scrutiny**

The following point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

#### **1. Standing Order 21.2(vi) – that its drafting appears to be defective or it fails to fulfil statutory requirements.**

In regulation 2, the term “the Act” has been used which has been defined in the preamble of these Regulations. However, as noted in paragraph 4.14(5) of Writing Laws for Wales, it is not possible to define a term in the preamble for the operative provisions in the body of the Regulations. Therefore, the title of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 should be repeated in



full in regulation 2 of these Regulations.

## **Merits Scrutiny**

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

## **Welsh Government response**

A Welsh Government response is required.

### **Legal Advisers**

**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

**19 November 2025**



Senedd Cymru

**Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad**

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Welsh Parliament

**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

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# Agenda Item 3.3

## **SL(6)676 – The Climate Change (Net Welsh Emissions Account Credit Limit) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

### **Background and Purpose**

These Regulations form part of a suite of Regulations that are referred to collectively as the Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2025, which also include the Climate Change (Carbon Budget) (Wales) Regulations (which set a carbon budget, known as Carbon Budget 4, for 2031-2035) and the Carbon Accounting (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (which amend the definition of a carbon unit).

These Regulations set a limit on the amount of carbon units that may be credited to the net Welsh emissions account, in accordance with section 33(4) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (the “2016 Act”).

Regulation 3 limits the number of carbon units that may be credited to the net Welsh emissions account for the budgetary period 2026-2030 to 0% of the carbon budget.

Before laying the draft Regulations, the Welsh Ministers obtained and took into account the advice of the Committee on Climate Change, in accordance with section 49(1) of the 2016 Act.

### **Procedure**

Draft Affirmative

The Welsh Ministers have laid a draft of these Regulations before the Senedd. The Welsh Ministers cannot make the Regulations unless the Senedd approves the draft Regulations.

### **Technical Scrutiny**

The following point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

#### **1. Standing Order 21.2(vi) – that its drafting appears to be defective or it fails to fulfil statutory requirements**

In regulation 2, the term “the Act” has been used which has been defined in the preamble of these Regulations. However, it is not possible to define a term in the preamble for the operative provisions in the body of the Regulations – see *Writing Laws for Wales*, paragraph 4.14(5). Therefore, the title of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 should be repeated in full in regulation 2 of these Regulations.



## Merits Scrutiny

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

## Welsh Government response

A Welsh Government response is required.

### Legal Advisers

**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

**19 November 2025**



Senedd Cymru

**Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad**

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Welsh Parliament

**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

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# Agenda Item 5.1

## **SL(6)661 – The Infrastructure Consent (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

### **Background and Purpose**

These Regulations make amendments to several pieces of secondary legislation which implement, and provide details of the processes required under, the Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 (the “2024 Act”).

They make corrections to the following regulations in response to points raised by this Committee in its reports:

- a. The Infrastructure Consent (Pre-Application and Application Procedure and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025, which make provision for pre-application and application procedures for applications for infrastructure consent under the 2024 Act;
- b. The Infrastructure Consent (Compulsory Acquisition) (Wales) Regulations 2025, which make provision for pre-application procedures, making an application and examination of an application for infrastructure consent made under the 2024 Act that includes an application for compulsory acquisition; and
- c. The Infrastructure Consent (Examination and Decision) (Procedure) (Wales) Regulations 2025, which make provision for the examination of applications for infrastructure consent made under the 2024 Act.

### **Procedure**

Negative.

The Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers before they were laid before the Senedd. The Senedd can annul the Regulations within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of the date they were laid before the Senedd.

### **Technical Scrutiny**

The following point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

#### **1. Standing Order 21.2(vi) – that its drafting appears to be defective or it fails to fulfil statutory requirements**

In regulation 2(1), in the English text, the title of the Infrastructure Consent (Pre-Application and Application Procedure and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025 is noted incorrectly because the year “2025” is missing.



## Merits Scrutiny

The following two points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

### **2. Standing Order 21.3(ii) – that it is of political or legal importance or gives rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the Senedd**

Regulation 2 of these Regulations makes corrections to the Infrastructure Consent (Pre-Application and Application Procedure and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025.

The points raised by this Committee in its [report](#) on those Regulations, many of which the Welsh Government [committed](#) to addressing in an amending instrument, are largely addressed by these Regulations.

Regulation 2(2)(a) of these Regulations specifically amends the definition of “EIA development” in regulation 2(1) of the Infrastructure Consent (Pre-Application and Application Procedure and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025 so that the full references to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007, as used in that definition, are changed to the defined terms for those Regulations provided in that regulation 2(1), namely to “Planning EIA Regulations” and “Marine EIA Regulations” respectively.

This is in response to reporting point 2 of the Committee’s report referenced above. However, that reporting point also noted that the same full references to the 2017 and 2007 Regulations, rather than the defined terms, are used in the definition of “the EIA Regulations” in regulation 2(1) of the Infrastructure Consent (Pre-Application and Application Procedure and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025.

It is noted that, unlike the definition of “EIA development”, the definition of “the EIA Regulations” is not corrected by these Regulations in line with that relevant reporting point.

### **3. Standing Order 21.3(ii) – that it is of political or legal importance or gives rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the Senedd**

Reporting point 22 of the Committee’s report on the Infrastructure Consent (Pre-Application and Application Procedure and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025 highlighted a difference between the English and Welsh text in relation to the numbering of paragraphs in the Schedule to those Regulations, in the text following the heading ‘Interpretation of Table’.

In the English text, the definition of ‘Distribution Network Operators’ appears in paragraph (g), but in the Welsh text, there is no paragraph (g), so that the definition appears in paragraph (f) immediately after the definition of “airport”.

It does not appear that this inconsistency has been addressed by regulation 2 of these Regulations.



## Welsh Government response

A Welsh Government response is required.

## Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 10 November 2025 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting points above.



Senedd Cymru

**Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad**

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Welsh Parliament **Pack Page 12**

**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**

## **Government Response: The Infrastructure Consent (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

Technical Scrutiny point 1: The Welsh Government notes the absence of the year in the title of the Regulations referred to in regulation 2(1). The year is correctly set out in the Welsh text and the footnote to both texts correctly sets out the citation. We consider that this is unlikely to confuse the reader, however we will liaise with the S.I. Registrar about the suitability of a correction slip in this instance.

Merit Scrutiny point 1: The Welsh Government notes the committee's comments regarding this reporting point. We will look to amend this via a further statutory instrument intended to be made before the end of the Senedd term.

Merit Scrutiny point 2: The Welsh Government notes the reporting point, however, the paragraph is correctly set out in the King's Printer version on [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)<sup>1</sup> and an amendment is not required.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2025/690/pdfs/wsi\\_20250690\\_mi.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2025/690/pdfs/wsi_20250690_mi.pdf)

# Agenda Item 5.2

## **SL(6)667 – The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

### **Background and Purpose**

These Regulations amend the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997 (“the 1997 Regulations”) to provide for an increase in the payments to be made by means of a voucher system in respect of costs incurred by certain categories of persons in connection with the supply, replacement and repair of optical appliances. The Regulations increase the optical voucher values from 1 April 2025 and make transitional provision in relation to vouchers issued or completed but not used or accepted before 1 April 2025.

### **Procedure**

Negative.

These Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers before they were laid before the Senedd. The Senedd can annul the Regulations within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of the date they were laid before the Senedd.

### **Technical Scrutiny**

The following two points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

#### **1. Standing Order 21.2(iv) – that it appears to have retrospective effect where the authorising enactment does not give express authority for this.**

These Regulations were made on 21 October 2025 and came into force on 11 November 2025. However, they have effect from 1 April 2025.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Regulations notes that:

*These Regulations have retrospective effect back to 01 April 2025 so as to ensure that the voucher value increases take effect from that date as agreed during tripartite negotiations between the Welsh Government, NHS Wales and Optometry Wales, as is the usual process and aligns to other contractor services, thereby providing an equitable and fair approach across all primary care contractors.*

*The reason for these Regulations requiring retrospective effect is due to the timing of the annual negotiations which take into consideration the outcome of the Doctors and*



*Dentists Remuneration Board, providing an equitable and fair approach across all primary care contractors.*

It is noted that the same issue arose in relation to the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2025. Whilst the Committee notes the explanation provided for the retrospective effect, the Welsh Government is asked to explain how it intends to avoid the need to make regulations with retrospective effect in this area in the future.

**2. Standing Order 21.2(vi) – that its drafting appears to be defective or it fails to fulfil statutory requirements.**

Schedule 1 to the Regulations replaces Schedule 1 to the 1997 Regulations. In the new Schedule 1 to the 1997 Regulations, reference is made on two occasions to “the 2006 Act”. This term is not defined in either the Regulations or the 1997 Regulations. In the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 “the 2006 Act” means the Health Act 2006 but the reference in the new Schedule 1 to the 1997 Regulations is to the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006. The term “the 2006 Act” therefore does not have the correct defined meaning for the purpose of these Regulations or the new Schedule 1 to the 1997 Regulations.

## Merits Scrutiny

The following two points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

**3. Standing Order 21.3(ii) – that it is of political or legal importance or gives rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the Senedd**

These Regulations came into force on 11 November 2025, less than 21 days after they were laid before the Senedd. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care wrote to the Llywydd on 4 November 2025 and stated that:

*The Welsh Government’s intention was to fully comply with the 21-day convention on laying and coming into force. Regrettably, there has been a miscalculation when calculating the 21 days between laying and the coming into force of these Regulations resulting in the convention not being fully adhered to by 2 days. The result of this unintentional error is the Regulations will come into force 19 days after they have been laid.*

*I thank the Senedd’s Legislation, Justice and Constitutional Committee’s clerking team for identifying this issue and for prompt notification of this matter to the Welsh Government.*

**4. Standing Order 21.3(ii) – that it is of political or legal importance or gives rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the Senedd**

No public consultation was carried out in relation to these Regulations. The Explanatory Memorandum notes that:



*No public consultation has been undertaken, however, Optometry Wales, acting as the professional body representing community optometrists, opticians and dispensing opticians across Wales, worked in collaboration to reach an agreed negotiated outcome on the voucher values via tripartite discussions with the Welsh Government and NHS Wales. This follows a well-established and collaborative annual process between the key delivery partners deploying a social partnership approach.*

## **Welsh Government response**

A Welsh Government response is required in relation to the technical reporting points only.

## **Committee Consideration**

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 17 November 2025 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting points above.



## **Government Response: The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2025**

Technical Scrutiny point 1: The Welsh Government acknowledges the Committee's observation regarding the retrospective effect of these Regulations and welcomes the opportunity to provide clarification.

Avoiding retrospective effect in this area is inherently challenging given the budgetary cycle which is driven by the Doctors and Dentists Review Body ("DDRB") process rather than the legislative mechanism. Annual uplifts for the sector are determined through tripartite negotiations between the Welsh Government, NHS Wales, and Optometry Wales and take account of the DDRB recommendations which are published after the start of the financial year. Whilst this approach ensures fairness across primary and community care professions, it results in negotiations concluding after 1 April, necessitating retrospective application to maintain equity.

In line with other contractor services, it is essential that the agreed increases apply from 1 April to ensure fairness and consistency across all primary care contractors. The DDRB is a fully independent body over which the Welsh Government has no influence, however, we will continue to keep our processes under review and explore any opportunities to improve timing and reduce the need for retrospective effect where possible, while maintaining fairness and consistency across all contractor services.

Technical Scrutiny point 2: The Welsh Government considers that the definition of "the Act" in regulation 1(2) of the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997 ("the 1997 Regulations") must, by operation of paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 2 to the National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006 be taken as meaning the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 ("the NHSWA 2006"). Consequently, any reference to "the Act" would then, by operation of that transitional provision, be a reference to the NHSWA 2006 and therefore, it is more likely than not that the reference to "the 2006 Act" would be read as a reference to the NHSWA 2006 rather than any other Act of 2006. Further, the definition of "the 2006 Act" in the NHSWA 2006 to which the Committee refers applies only for the purposes of the commencement provision in section 208 of that Act which, in the Welsh Government's view, supports the interpretation above.

Notwithstanding this, the Welsh Government thanks the Committee for bringing this to our attention, and the Committee will note that Schedule 1 to the 1997 Regulations is subject to annual amendments. Considering that opportunity we will look to make an amendment in this respect at that next opportunity.

# Agenda Item 6.1

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

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

18 November 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of the tenth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC), which will take place on 20 November 2025.

I will be chairing the meeting, which will take place virtually. The discussion is anticipated to focus on International Affairs, Community Cohesion, and live issues including the upcoming UK Budget, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Sewel Convention and Legislation.

This letter has been copied to the Chairs of the following Committees: Finance; Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs; Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations; Health and Social Care; and Equality and Social Justice.

I will provide an update after the meeting in line with established arrangements.

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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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.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## **WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

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**TITLE**        **Outcome of the sixth UK Education Ministers Council Meeting**

**DATE**        **21 November 2025**

**BY**            **Lynne Neagle, Cabinet Secretary for Education**

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I am writing to inform you of outcome of the sixth UK Education Ministers Council (EMC) meeting, which took place in Cardiff on the 13 November 2025.

As lead Cabinet Secretary for this Interministerial Group, I attended and chaired the meeting on behalf of the Welsh Government.

The meeting was also attended by Paul Givan MLA, Minister of Education for the Northern Ireland Executive, Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills for the Scottish Government, and Baroness Jacqui Smith MP, Minister of State in Dept for Skills for the UK Government.

The discussions centred on the Curriculum, recognising that each Nation is at a different stage of review and reform. This provided a valuable opportunity for participants to share progress to date and exchange best practice.

Ministers also acknowledged the rise in challenges in behaviour in schools since the COVID-19 pandemic and outlined effective approaches being implemented to address this.

The group also considered the role of Artificial Intelligence in education and online safety, with a particular focus on preparing learners for an increasingly AI driven world.

Ministers welcomed the successful collaborative efforts that ensured the safe arrival of Chevening and full scholarship students from Gaza to commence their studies across the UK this autumn. These students are expected to play an important role in rebuilding Gaza in the future. While this matter falls outside the Northern Ireland Education Minister's departmental responsibilities, it was noted for information.

It was agreed that the Scottish Government would host the next the next meeting. Officials will collaborate with their counterparts to set the theme and agenda.

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

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/1629/25

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

19 November 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform you my consent has been granted for The Organic Production (Amendment) Regulations 2025, which was laid in the UK Parliament on 22 October. This Statutory Instrument extends derogations in organic production for the use of non-organic pullets reared for laying, non-organic gellan gum and for the inclusion of up to 5% non-organic protein feed for pigs and poultry.

My consent for this SI is based on the Secretary of State using powers conferred by Article 22(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products. Article 38a(3)(a) of this regulation gives powers to the Secretary of State to make regulations for Wales in this area, provided the consent of the Welsh Ministers is given.

I informed Members of the Senedd of the laying of these Regulations through a Written Statement laid on 23 October - [Written Statement: The Organic Production \(Amendment\) Regulations 2025 \(24 October 2025\) | GOV.WALES](#)

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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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.

# Agenda Item 7.1

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

Julie James AS/MS  
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Cyflawni  
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery

Ein cyf/Our ref: HID-PO-590-25

17 November 2025

Dear Mike,

## The Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2026-27

We are writing in response to your letter of 16 September, seeking information to support scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft budget plans for justice. Answers to the questions you posed in the letter are attached at Annex A.

Thank you for writing to us as Committee Chair on this important matter. We hope you find this response helpful.

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

### Julie James AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Cyflawni  
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery

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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.

## **Annex A**

### **General**

The Draft Budget is the starting point of the Welsh Government's budget process - not the end of it. The Draft Budget 2026-27 is built on the strong foundation of last year's budget, which included £1.6bn of new spending commitments, enabling public services to start planning for the 2026–27 financial year. It allocates 98.6% of available funding, leaving room for further investment in Wales' priorities by the Final Budget in January. It is our firm ambition to secure a Final Budget which uses all the resources available for 2026-27. The government remains open to collaboration with other Senedd parties to agree a budget, emphasising the shared responsibility to pass a budget to benefit Welsh citizens.

As previously noted to the Committee, it is not currently possible to provide comprehensive detailed, granular information on justice expenditure in the form requested. Justice-related activity spans multiple portfolios and is funded through various BELs, many of which also fund other activities. In cases where a BEL covers a range of activities, a draft allocation does not necessarily reflect final decisions on how those funds will be prioritised. It would not be possible at this juncture to determine the extent to which these allocations will support justice-related expenditure.

We have outlined the budget lines that directly support justice-related activities across the relevant MEGs. A breakdown of planned spending for the main justice-related budgets in the 2026–27 draft budget is provided in the annexed table, along with a narrative on any year-on-year changes. This includes key elements of the Delivering Justice for Wales programme, devolution of youth justice and probation and tribunals.

While other budget lines across Welsh Government departments, such as housing, health, and education, contribute indirectly to justice outcomes, it is not possible to isolate the justice-related expenditure within these budgets. These allocations are therefore not included in the information provided.

### **Justice Policy Budgets in Wales**

Expenditure from Welsh Government's dedicated justice policy budgets focuses on two main areas:

- Advancing the devolution of justice
- Reforming the Welsh Tribunals

### **Devolution of Justice**

As the Committee is aware, discussions are progressing between the UK and Welsh Governments exploring the devolution of youth justice and probation. Any devolution must be properly funded, covering both capital and revenue needs. The Welsh Government's goal is full devolution of justice, and we are taking a phased approach.

The provisions in the draft Budget will allow activity to continue in 2026–27, including implementation of any agreements reached with the UK Government, refining operational policy, and potentially introducing legal mechanisms for new devolved responsibilities. This work is supported by the Justice Transformation and Constitutional Reform BELs, as part of implementing the Independent Commission's recommendations.

Officials in both governments are working together to explore options where responsibilities in the youth justice system could be realigned. This included strategic oversight, partnership and governance arrangements and funding of youth justice services as starting points. Strategic oversight is essential to avoid financial risk and ensure effective service delivery. A Justice Research Programme, funded through Welsh Government research budgets, is strengthening the evidence base. Initial strands focus on:

- Current and potential funding models for youth justice
- Capacity and capability for managing a devolved youth justice system

This research will inform discussions with the UK Government and identify opportunities for better value through alignment with devolved services.

An MoU on co-commissioning probation services is also being discussed. While not expected to significantly affect justice budgets, it could have implications for other devolved services due to their role in reducing reoffending.

Funding from the two BELs will support a small number of staff to lead discussions and prepare for new functions. Planned budget changes for 2026–27 are minimal, primarily reflecting inflationary pressures, as previous allocations covered much of the required activity. Looking ahead, any larger budget uplift would likely occur in the next Senedd term, alongside transfers of powers. Immediate transfers would require both in-year funding discussions and long-term budget mechanisms.

As previously noted to the Committee, it remains challenging to provide detailed justice expenditure data, as justice-related activity spans multiple portfolios and is funded through various BELs. Where BELs cover a range of functions, draft allocations do not reflect final spending decisions, and further work is needed to assess how much will support justice-related activity.

We have identified budget lines that directly contribute to justice-related work across different MEGs. We acknowledge the Committee's interest in improving transparency around justice spending and appreciate its efforts to provide cross-cutting scrutiny. While we are not yet able to provide the level of detail we aspire to, we have made meaningful progress in strengthening our evidence base and informing policy and spending decisions. This year, our focus has been on advancing the devolution of youth justice and probation. This includes work to better understand justice system structures, operations, and outcomes. We have collaborated with the Ministry of Justice to encourage disaggregation of England-Wales data, [which is now available](#).

As noted above we have also launched the Justice Research Programme, supported by an academic advisory group. One of the programme's first pieces of work will be to consider improvements to funding arrangements for local youth justice services. Expert input is guiding both short- and long-term approaches to probation devolution. The Wales Centre for Public Policy is exploring an MoU model similar to Greater Manchester's, and the Wales Probation Development Group has proposed a framework for a fully devolved service.

All of this work is improving our understanding of how Welsh Government activity links to justice outcomes, which will inform future budget decisions and presentation.

## **Delivering Justice for Wales**

As in previous years, we continue to prioritise actions within the Delivering Justice for Wales programme that fall within our current powers, while actively pursuing justice devolution to expand our ability to deliver its wider aims. Budget allocations are detailed in Annex B.

Many programme actions focus on young people's experiences in the justice system, where progress has been made through the youth justice blueprints and collaborative service delivery. We aim to build on this by, for example:

- Developing a prevention framework for at-risk young people
- Ensuring access to support via the Young Person's Guarantee for those in the secure estate
- Promoting Youth to Adult Transitions principles
- Exploring future models for secure youth provision in Wales
- Reducing the number of children held on remand
- Embedding good practice in youth justice prevention
- Strengthening trauma-informed approaches in youth secure environments

The Blueprints, published in 2019 with a five-year implementation plan, were developed jointly with HMPPS, the Ministry of Justice, Policing in Wales, the Youth Justice Board, and third-sector partners. As of April 2025, they have entered a new delivery phase focused on embedding best practice, supporting wellbeing, and reducing reoffending—particularly for women and children.

While not technically a partnership programme with the Ministry of Justice, we are also continuing to fund Police Community Support Officers to support the critical role they play in keeping communities safe. In 2025/26 we provided £16.003m of funding for PCSOs and in 2026/27 this will increase to £16.273m. Following recommendations by the Senedd Equality and Social Justice Committee, we are in the process of undertaking a light touch review of PCSOs in Wales, to provide a broader understanding of the types of work PCSOs carry out.

For 2026–27, there is no planned joint justice spending with the Ministry of Justice. However, the Welsh Government will continue supporting young people and women to prevent justice system contact, and will maintain close collaboration with MoJ and HMPPS to manage the interface between devolved and non-devolved services.

## **The Welsh Tribunals**

We are progressing proposals relating to Tribunal Reform, through the development of the Tribunals Bill. This ongoing work, including preparations for the implementation of that legislation, is supported by the Justice Transformation BEL.

We were pleased to be able provide an increase in the budget allocation for the operation of the Welsh Tribunals, rising from £4.110 million in 2024/25 to £6.083 million in 2025/26<sup>1</sup>, which includes changes made in the first supplementary budget: £35k for NI contribution increases and £40k transferred from the Education BEL for in-year projects in this financial year. We intend to make further allocations at the second supplementary budget for meeting pay award costs and for in year projects. This increase reflects our continued commitment to ensuring the effective and sustainable operation of the devolved tribunals, and recognises the valuable contribution made by tribunal members and staff. The draft Budget allocation for 2026/27 is £6.076 million for the Welsh Tribunals, retaining increases for ongoing staff related costs.

We remain committed to ensuring that public funds are managed responsibly and efficiently. We welcome the President of Welsh Tribunals' continued efforts to identify and deliver savings where possible. Monitoring of the tribunal service budget is an ongoing and collaborative process. It is a matter discussed by the President of Welsh Tribunals with the

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the table in Annex B reflects the original allocation of funds and not in-year supplementary budget allocations.

Counsel General and Minister for Delivery and officials, as appropriate, to ensure resources are aligned with operational needs.

A capital allocation of £350k has been made available to the Tribunals BEL in 2025/26 for the procurement of a new case management system. This investment will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of all devolved Welsh Tribunals and their judicial members. In addition, £150K in revenue funding has been allocated to support the migration of data from the existing IT system to the new platform, alongside appropriate staffing resource to facilitate both the procurement and implementation.

### **The accessibility of Welsh law**

As explained in previous years, the costs of our work to deliver *The Future of Welsh law* are met from across a number of portfolios as part of the wider legislative activity of the organisation. That remains the position for 2026-27 and indeed will do so in future years.

## Annex B – draft budget allocations to justice budgets – 2026/27

| BEL                          | MEG                                 | 2025/26 budget <sup>2</sup> | Proposed 2026/27 budget | Impact of changes   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Justice Transformation       | Climate Change & Rural Affairs      | 0.688m                      | 0.711m                  | This BEL funds devolution preparations and tribunals reform. The increase in funds stems from increased costs of staffing of both of these activities and other associated costs. |
| Constitutional Reform        | Climate Change & Rural Affairs      | 2.014m                      | 2.075m                  | This BEL also contributes to work in pursuit of devolution of youth justice and probation, by funding (amongst other things) staff to work on these policies.                     |
| Criminal Justice Delivery    | Social Justice                      | 1.292m                      | 1.443m                  | This BEL delivers work to support women and children in the justice system, including the One Wales service which we jointly commission with justice partners.                    |
| Community Support and Safety | Social Justice                      | 16.003m                     | 16.273m                 | This BEL supports our funding for Police Community Support Officers who are employed and tasked by the Welsh forces and British Transport police.                                 |
| Tribunals                    | Central Services and Administration | 6.008m                      | 6.076m                  | This BEL supports the delivery of tribunal services in Wales.   |

<sup>2</sup> Figures reflect when 2025/26 budget was first agreed and do not include in-year budget adjustments

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for  
Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Julie James MS

Counsel General and Minister for Delivery

16 September 2025

Dear both

### The Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2026-27

To assist our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2026-27, we would be grateful to receive further detail around the Welsh Government's proposed spending in relation to justice and the accessibility of Welsh law.

We intend to undertake our scrutiny of these proposals through correspondence; we would therefore be grateful to receive further detail within the areas set out in the annex by 13 November 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hedges

Chair

## Annex

### General

- 1.** A breakdown of planned spending on justice-related actions within the 2026-27 draft budget and future indicative budgets, by Spending Programme Area (SPA), Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL), both revenue and capital, and, where relevant, year-on year comparison to planned expenditure in 2025-26.
- 2.** A detailed narrative description of any planned spending on justice in the 2026-27 draft budget and, where relevant, any year-on-year changes identified.
- 3.** A summary of any work undertaken to improve the level of information provided on planned justice spending within the draft budget including detail on any changes made to the structure and presentation of the budget compared to previous years as a result.

### Delivering Justice for Wales

- 4.** An overview of planned spending in 2026-27 on the Delivering Justice for Wales work programme including:
  - the outcomes the Welsh Government is hoping to deliver as a result of this spending;
  - an explanation of what areas of work will be prioritised in 2026-27; and
  - where relevant, details of how this planned spend compares to expenditure on the Delivering Justice for Wales work programme in the current 2025-26 financial year.
- 5.** Detail on planned spending on justice programmes in partnership with the Ministry of Justice in 2026-27.
- 6.** An overview of any planned spending to prepare for the Welsh Government's ambition to devolve elements of the justice system to Wales.
- 7.** An overview of any resources in the 2026-27 draft budget to take forward proposals for a new tribunals system for Wales.

### The Welsh Tribunals

- 8.** An overview of the resources in the 2026-27 draft budget to support the operation of the Welsh Tribunals including:
  - action being taken to monitor the extent to which the resources provided will be sufficient to meet operational demands;

- detail about capital expenditure on IT systems modernisation.

### The accessibility of Welsh law

9. A breakdown of any planned spending within the 2026-27 draft budget relating to the delivery of the Welsh Government's programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law.



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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>TITLE</b> | <b>Consultation on draft Air Quality Target Regulations for fine particulate matter</b>                     |
| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>17 November 2025</b>   |
| <b>BY</b>    | <b>Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs</b> |

Clean air is fundamental to our health, our environment and our quality of life. Decades of action to reduce emissions from power generation, transport, agriculture, industry, and domestic sources mean that the air we breathe today is cleaner than it has been at any time since the industrial revolution. Yet the continued challenge of air pollution remains. Though often invisible, its impact is profound—shortening lives, harming vulnerable groups and damaging the natural world.

The Welsh Government's Clean Air Plan for Wales sets out our long-term strategy to tackle air pollution and improve air quality. A key commitment within the Plan was the introduction of The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024. Central to this is the creation of a framework for setting national air quality targets, empowering Welsh Ministers to establish legally binding goals that will drive progress.

Today, I am pleased to announce the launch of a [public consultation](#) on proposed targets for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) — the pollutant most strongly linked to serious health impacts. The proposed targets would significantly reduce the permitted annual mean concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, aligning Wales more closely with World Health Organization guidance. These targets are designed to be ambitious, achievable and impactful—reducing exposure across Wales and improving outcomes for all.

Meeting these targets will require action across society. While the duty to achieve them rests with national government, success will depend on collaboration between public bodies, businesses, communities, and individuals. Legally binding targets will

provide clarity and direction, helping to shape investment, innovation, and behaviour change.

This consultation marks an important step in our journey towards cleaner air. I encourage everyone to take part and share their views. Together, we can build a healthier, greener future for Wales.

# Agenda Item 7.3

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: KS/PO/588/2025

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

17 November 2025

Dear Mike

## **Bus Services (Wales) Bill – WCPP Report**

I am pleased to inform you that the Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP) report “*Success Factors for Contracting and Awarding Bus Franchising in Wales*” has been published, and is available at the following link, along with accompanying documents:

[Innovative approach to evidence to support Wales’ bus franchising transition | WCPP](#)

The report, which has been co-produced with WCPP, my officials and Transport for Wales, has welcomed input from various experts and franchising authorities from across the world, all of which have successfully implemented and sustained models similar to that enabled by the Bill.

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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.

The report brings together the findings from four expert authored think pieces alongside insight from eight evidence 'spotlight sessions' held between March and May 2025, featuring transport authorities from Jersey, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Australia, and Singapore, and two UK cases (Liverpool City Region, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority), plus leading academic experts.

This project has been invaluable in informing some of the policy development behind the Bill and continues to inform and steer plans for implementation, such as contract development and the development of some of the regulations and guidance.

I hope that you, and the rest of the Committee, enjoy reading the report.

I want to extend my thanks once again to the Committee for their work and scrutiny of the Bill. Your examination and challenge is vital to shaping legislation that truly serves public interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru  
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref

Andrew RT Davies MS  
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

18 November 2025

Dear Andrew,

## **Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill**

Following the session on 5 November, in which I gave evidence as part of your scrutiny of the Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill, I wanted to write to provide further information on a handful of the points discussed. This is supplementary to the Statement of Policy Intent that was shared with you on the same date, and similarly, is intended to aid understanding of the policy and scrutiny of the Bill.

### **Transitional arrangements**

There are powers in the Bill that allow for transitional arrangements to be put in place to enable as smooth an implementation as possible.

We intend to use these powers to allow existing providers to continue operating until such time as their application is determined, so long as they have applied for a licence by the specified deadline as the scheme is rolled out. The powers in the Bill allow for this and can be used to avoid a situation where a provider is prevented from operating during that implementation period simply because the licensing authority needs more time to process the application than would normally be the case during steady state of the scheme.

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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.

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## **Provisional and Renewal of Licences**

These are procedures that will continue to be in place during the scheme's steady state, and are therefore different to the transitional arrangements outlined above.

In respect of **renewal applications**, the power on the face of the Bill at section 25(2), expressly allows for provision to be made to enable a licence to continue to have effect until a renewal application has been determined. The intention is to avoid a provider who has applied for renewal being prevented from operating purely due to their application not having been determined.

As I explained during the evidence session on 5 November, this power will also allow us to ensure accommodation providers benefit from the flexibility of not having to resubmit evidence we already hold at the point of renewal, so the process can be as simple and straightforward for them as we can make it.

**Provisional licences** are intended to accommodate circumstances where a licence approval requirement cannot yet be met, for example, where a provider is building new visitor accommodation. A provisional licence would allow providers to begin advertising and taking advance bookings, while they work towards a full licence. However, until such time as they are able to meet all of the requirements for a full licence, and that licence is granted, they would not be permitted to accept guests to stay (i.e. to "*provide*" the accommodation).

This arrangement is intended to ensure new or existing providers are not deterred from expanding their businesses or pursuing new opportunities due to limitations in the licensing scheme. At the same time, it ensures these providers are aware of the requirements they will need to meet. It is also intended to help maintain the efficacy of the Directory of visitor accommodation in providing reassurance to visitors that even though the accommodation does not currently meet the requirements, they will need to be met prior to a visitor being allowed to stay.

The operational and procedural nature of those matters is part of the reason for them being left to regulations rather than being set out on the face of the Bill. The other reason is to ensure sufficient flexibility in the scheme to support business continuity in a continuously evolving sector, while maintaining transparency and the scheme's integrity.

## **Amendment of Licences**

For amendments of licences, we expect most of these to come following requests from providers, for example, where their accommodation has changed in some way. However, it is likely that amending a licence will be one of the options available for compliance and enforcement, as an additional step before revocation. This will favour licence holders, as it will, for example, allow parts of the accommodation at a premises to be removed from what is licensed, where an identified issue is localised or contained, and doesn't impact other accommodation at a premises. This would allow the provider to continue to operate any remaining accommodation at the premises, provided it is compliant, rather than revoking the whole licence. It is in this sort of scenario that an amendment may be made to a licence

without a request from the provider. This will, of course, be linked to the remedial and revocation processes, as well as appeals, so that there is a clear flow through the compliance and enforcement process, with opportunities for providers to put problems right, together with the flexibility for them to manage their own licences as necessary.

## **Appeals**

As I mentioned in my evidence on 5 November, the appeals process will be as is standard across many schemes, including under the recent Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Act 2025 (“the VARL Act”), where a provider will have the right to appeal to the First-tier Tribunal on various decisions made under the scheme, as provided for under section 28. However, as you will also see from that which I have set out above, the information contained in the SoPI, and as discussed in my oral evidence, there are many steps and stages to supporting compliance with the requirements of the Bill. These processes have been included to ensure a proportionate approach to compliance and enforcement across a wide range of scenarios. Equally, in the event the licensing authority gets a decision wrong or doesn’t treat all providers fairly, the appeals process is there as a safeguard.

## **Licensing Authority and the role of the Welsh Revenue Authority**

I also wanted to set out information about the functions of managing the licensing scheme and the role of the Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA). The Bill does not establish a ‘licensing authority’ by name or by design. We have used that term for ease and brevity, to describe the functions of the licensing scheme, which sit with the Welsh Ministers, as distinct from their wider functions.

Under the Bill, the core functions of the scheme will remain with the Welsh Ministers. Nevertheless, with the powers afforded under section 83 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, for example, we are able to enter into agency arrangements with other public bodies in respect of the exercise of those functions. It is using powers such as these that we will look to other public bodies for certain elements of the operation of the scheme, where it makes more sense for those tasks to be administered by someone else.

We have been clear throughout the journey of this Bill since its inception, including during the scrutiny of the VARL Act, that wherever possible we would ensure the systems and processes for providers would be as streamlined as possible, and that we would avoid duplication of effort wherever we are able. To achieve that, our goal remains for a single point of entry when it comes to the systems that providers will need to use for registration, licensing and the visitor levy, and to avoid some providers requiring three different logins or inputting the same information three times.

It is in this context that I discussed the role of the WRA in my last evidence session. The WRA is already developing the IT system for registration; and given the registration scheme creates the foundation for both licensing and the visitor levy, I want the licensing system fully to exploit synergies with registration and the levy. Although no decision has been

made as to who will build and operate the IT system to support the licensing scheme, my view is that it should be developed as the next step to that registration system.

To that end, whilst the Senedd is yet to agree this Bill, given the current stage of the development for registration, and the time it can take to develop systems such as these, my officials are working with the WRA to scope out how this could work, and what technology might be available to assist and reduce some operational costs. For example, for licence applications or evidence, using AI and other digital functionality to undertake initial checks of documentation, before the licensing authority considers and determines whether it can or should be approved. There may also be economies of scale for some other operational customer relationship management (CRM) functions, such as helplines and IT support, and we will take advantage of those wherever it is appropriate to do so. We have provided funding this year to WRA to undertake this work, and that will inform future decisions on the WRA's role in licensing.

However, I want to make clear that there are significant aspects of the licensing system which I do not expect the WRA to deliver on our behalf. I do not anticipate them determining whether a provider's application should be approved where it cannot be done automatically, nor do I anticipate them writing guidance on fitness for visitor accommodation, deciding when compliance and enforcement action is necessary, or undertaking inspections when it is. I expect their role in the licensing system to be focussed on managing the IT system and integration with registration and the levy, both at the front end to create a single platform for providers and potentially in the back-office to support effective management of both systems. As I set out in Committee, we will be looking at Visit Wales, local authorities and other bodies for some of these other elements, but the licensing authority itself will remain the responsibility of the Welsh Government in order to maintain a national scheme and provide strategic oversight at a national level.

### **Code of Practice and Statutory Guidance**

Finally, turning to the Code of Practice and Statutory Guidance. The Bill sets out a duty for Welsh Ministers to provide guidance on the licensing scheme, and a power to publish a wider Code of Practice. The intention here is for the statutory guidance to provide the information providers of regulated visitor accommodation may need, alongside the training, in order to comply with the requirements of the scheme, and will be there for them to refer back to whenever required. That guidance will eventually sit alongside the Code of Practice, to create a single suite of information for the whole of the tourism sector; with the Code providing best practice guidance on various matters, not just in respect of licensing, to help support existing and prospective providers in the sector to continue to drive standards and maintain a sustainable tourism economy across Wales.

I look forward to discussing the Bill further at our next meeting on 20 November.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Finance and Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committees for their information.

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

The Rt Hon Elin Jones MS  
Chair,  
Business Committee

14 November 2025

Annwyl Lywydd

**Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes: publication of pre-introduction Bills**

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2025 seeking views on the Welsh Government's recent practice (as noted in the Business Committee on 20 May 2025) of publishing pre-introduction versions of Bills to be introduced during Year 5 of the Sixth Senedd at the same time as they are provided to the Llywydd for the purposes of making a determination on legislative competence in accordance with Standing Order 26.4 (normally four weeks before a Bill's introduction).

From our perspective, and given that our scrutiny role is more specialist and therefore does not usually engage stakeholders on policy matters, early publication did not have a material benefit to us in general, although we recognise it may have been useful for policy committees. We do acknowledge however that having early sight of the Planning Consolidation Bills was helpful to Commission officials over the summer given the nature of the consolidation process. However, the optimal solution is always to work off legislation that is formally introduced and the broader concerns we expressed in our letter to the Business Committee on 3 July 2025 about the timetable for scrutiny of the Bills remain.

We do however wish to highlight some important points linked to our evidence to the Business Committee on the review.

The publishing of a pre-introduction version of a Bill should not be seen as a means to reduce the amount of time available for that Bill's scrutiny by Committees. The time available for Stage 1 scrutiny of Year 5 Bills has been regrettably curtailed, particularly when compared to the timetables for Bills in the first four years of the Sixth Senedd; it is considerably less than the 12 weeks we recommended for Stage 1 Bill scrutiny in our review submission. Curtailed scrutiny timeframes can result in legislation that has not been fully tested by legislators and stakeholders and, as a consequence, may not deliver the intended outcomes or be fully effective for Welsh citizens.

Furthermore, a pre-introduction version of a Bill cannot be relied on for decision-making or be used to begin gathering evidence as such versions are subject to change and also need to be considered alongside the Presiding Officer's determination on legislative competence, an explanatory memorandum and a statement of policy intent for subordinate legislation.

The Committee's long standing view is that there should be a presumption in favour of publishing draft Bills for scrutiny and consultation in advance of a Bill's introduction. Such pre-legislative scrutiny is a valuable and important part of the legislative process, not least because it provides more opportunities for engagement with stakeholders on the legislation itself and in a way that is different from consulting on broad policy proposals set out in a White Paper. As such we would wish to make it clear that there is a substantive difference between formally consulting on a draft Bill, for example, a year before formal introduction, and publishing a draft version of a Bill four weeks before introduction that has reduced time for Stage 1 scrutiny because of timing issues within the government's control.

We would also respectfully highlight that there is an onus on the Welsh Government to ensure that, in planning its legislative programme across a Senedd term, it builds in adequate time for public consultation and meaningful scrutiny of Bills by Senedd Committees. As we indicate above, we believe that should mean at least 12 weeks for Stage 1 scrutiny. As a general rule, we believe that Bills introduced in the final year of a Senedd should not result in less time for scrutiny by Senedd Committees; nevertheless we recognise that some flexibility may be needed in exceptional circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges  
Chair

## **The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memoranda on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill)**

### **Welsh Government response to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's report**

**18 November 2025**

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In October 2025, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee submitted its report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memoranda for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. The report includes three recommendations. This is the Welsh Government's response to those recommendations.

### **Introduction**

The Welsh Government welcomes the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's report about the Legislative Consent Memoranda for the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. The Committee's scrutiny plays a crucial role in ensuring that constitutional, legal and devolution issues are thoroughly examined, especially in relation to legislation with significant ethical, legal, and practical implications for Wales.

For clarity, all clause references in this response refer to the latest version of the Bill as brought from the House of Commons, which can be accessed at [Terminally Ill Adults \(End of Life\) Bill publications - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#).

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, introduced as a Private Member's Bill in the House of Commons, seeks to provide adults who are terminally ill with the choice to request assistance to end their own life, subject to safeguards and protections.

The Welsh Government recognises the complexity of this issue and the importance of ensuring that any legislative changes respect the devolution settlement and the distinct legal context in Wales.

We note the committee's focus on the constitutional and legislative aspects of the Bill, including the scope of the Legislative Consent Memoranda laid before the Senedd and the interaction between reserved and devolved matters. The Welsh Government remains committed to working constructively with the UK Government and the Bill's Sponsors to ensure the devolution settlement is respected and that the interests of Wales are considered as the Bill progresses.

Where the committee's recommendations relate to devolved matters, such as health and social care, the Welsh Government will continue to work closely with the Senedd and relevant partners to ensure the policy intent is delivered effectively and in accordance with Wales' constitutional framework.

I thank the members of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee for their detailed report. I have set out my response to the recommendations below.

## **Response to the three recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1**

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The committee recommends that

We consider that the Senedd's consent is required for clauses 1 to 31, 34, to 40 and 42 to 59 of the Bill (as brought from the Commons).

**Response: Reject.**

I note the committee's recommendation that the Senedd's consent is required for clauses 1 to 31, 34 to 40, and 42 to 59 of the Bill, including new clauses added at Report Stage in the House of Commons.

As set out in our Memoranda, our assessment under Standing Order 29 (SO29) concluded that the consent of the Senedd is required only in respect of provisions in clauses 40, 42, 49, 51, 54, and 58. For the other clauses referenced by the committee, our assessment determined that the test in SO29 was not met.

As explained previously, we are unable to provide further detail on this assessment without waiving legal professional privilege. Nonetheless, I remain committed to working with the Senedd to provide such information as can be shared and to supporting scrutiny of the Bill where appropriate.

**Financial Implications – None**

### **Recommendation 2**

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The committee recommends that

The Minister should explain why the Bill (as brought from the Commons) creates a concurrent power in clause 40 that is not subject to a relevant consent mechanism and an associated 'carve out' from the *Government of Wales Act 2006*.

**Response: Accept.**

It remains the Welsh Government's preferred position that concurrent powers in devolved areas should, where appropriate, be subject to relevant consent mechanisms and associated 'carve outs' from the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Clause 40 of the Bill provides for a concurrent power for Welsh Ministers and the Secretary of State to issue guidance. This arrangement presents a low constitutional risk, particularly in circumstances where guidance issued by the Secretary of State may relate to devolved matters. While the Bill does not provide for a consent mechanism, it does include a statutory requirement for the Secretary of State to consult the Welsh Ministers before issuing guidance. In my view, this consultation requirement provides a safeguard that helps mitigate the risk of overlap or conflict, and we would expect any guidance to be developed collaboratively to ensure consistency with devolved policy and delivery arrangements.

**Financial Implications** – None.

### **Recommendation 3**

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The committee recommends that

The Cabinet Secretary should confirm that the Welsh Ministers may commence sections 42(1), 42(2), 51(2), and 51(3) of the Bill (as brought from the Commons) by regulations only and that no automatic commencement backstop applies.

**Response:** Accept.

I consider the automatic commencement backstop at clause 58(4) of the Bill (as brought from the Commons) does not apply to sections 42(1) and (2) and 51(2) and (3), which are to be commenced by regulations made by the Welsh Ministers. Paragraph 16 of Memorandum No. 2 refers to the automatic commencement backstop having previously not applied (under the Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee) to commencement in Wales, and how amendments agreed in the Commons brought commencement in Wales within the scope of the backstop, except for in respect of sections 42(1) and (2) and 51(2) and (3).

**Financial Implications** – None.

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**WRITTEN STATEMENT  
BY  
THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

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|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>TITLE</b> | <b>Consultation on the School Funding, Budget Statements and Outturn Statements (Wales) Regulations 2026</b> |
| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>20 November 2025</b>  |
| <b>BY</b>    | <b>Lynne Neagle MS, Cabinet Secretary for Education</b>  |

Today, I am pleased to publish the [summary of responses](#) to the consultation on the School Funding, Budget Statements and Outturn Statements (Wales) Regulations 2026. I am very grateful to all the individuals and organisations who took the time to respond to the consultation.

The consultation gathered views which will inform the new Regulations, which will revoke and remake with amendments the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, the Education Budget Statements (Wales) Regulations 2002, and the Education (Outturn Statements) (Wales) Regulations 2003 into one set of Regulations.

There was broad support for the proposed amendments which aim to provide greater flexibility to allow local authorities to better support schools to manage their school budgets and to increase transparency, comparability and consistency in the school funding system in Wales. This will allow informed budget discussions at all levels.

Our proposals, therefore, will proceed largely unchanged. Further details on the specific proposals are provided in the summary of responses.

I intend to lay the School Funding, Budget Statement and Outturn Statement (Wales) Regulations 2026 in March 2026. However, to ensure local authorities sufficient time to consult on, and implement any changes to their processes or policies as a result of the amended Regulations, it is intended that they will come into force on 1 April 2027. Therefore, local authorities will be required to be compliant with the amended Regulations for the 2027-28 financial year.

# Agenda Item 7.8

Sarah Murphy AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant  
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legal, Justice and Constitution Committee

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

21 November 2025

Dear Mike

Thank you for your Committee's report on the Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 5) on the Mental Health Bill, received on 1 October.

I appreciate the Committee's continued scrutiny and observations, as well as your work to consider this SLCM quickly, in time to inform the Plenary debate.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarah Murphy AS/MS**  
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

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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.

Ein cyf/Our ref: SM/TBVB/2111/25

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

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

Peter Fox MS  
Chair  
Health and Social Care Committee

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

21 November 2025

Dear Mike and Peter,

As you will be aware, on 31 October, I laid a Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (SLCM) in respect of UK Government amendments to the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which were tabled during Lords Committee Stage on 20 October 2025.

I am writing to provide an update about a procedural matter. The Committee Stage of the Bill is taking place in Grand Committee, rather than in a Committee of the Whole House. In Grand Committee, amendments to a Bill can only be made with the unanimous agreement of Members. As there was not unanimous support for the government amendments, they were withdrawn to enable the House to consider them again at Report Stage. The UK Government remains confident these technical amendments will be re-tabled at Report Stage and while I do not anticipate any difficulties in this regard, I am withdrawing the SLCM as the amendment text may be revised and I want to ensure the SLCM is clear and accurate.

I continue to strongly support the policy proposals and policy intent of the Bill and will work closely with the other UK governments to ensure a consistent four-nations approach is taken. The LCM debate for this Bill is scheduled to take place in the Senedd on 9 December.

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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.

I remain grateful to the Committees for the continued support and detailed scrutiny of this important legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'S' and a long, sweeping underline for the 'y'.

**Sarah Murphy AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant  
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

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# Agenda Item 10

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

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