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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear Elin

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Dominic Raab MP, introduced the [Bill of Rights Bill](#) (the Bill) in the House of Commons on 22 June.

From our initial analysis, the Bill touches upon areas of devolved competence. In a letter to the First Minister on 22 June, the Deputy Prime Minister asks the Welsh Government to begin the legislative consent process in the Senedd. However, given the almost complete absence of meaningful engagement by the UK Government ahead of introduction and the complexity of the issues raised in the Bill, it has not yet been possible to consider properly the devolution consequences of what is being proposed.

We will need to carry out a detailed analysis of the Bill. However, only 5 of the 41 clauses of the Bill were shared with us prior to introduction, which were largely meaningless without sight of the other clauses to which they relate. None of the five schedules were shared in advance. This is a Bill with great constitutional significance, which is very complex and amends the Government of Wales Act 2006, therefore a very close examination of each and every provision will be required.

The UK Government launched a consultation on the proposal to replace the Human Rights Act 1998 on 21 December 2021. We submitted a response to this consultation, which closed on 8 March, and we issued a [Written Statement](#) on the same day.

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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.

On 3 May [a Welsh Government debate on Human Rights was held in Plenary](#). We also issued a further [Written Statement](#) on the introduction of the Bill.

We expect to lay a Legislative Consent Memorandum before the Senedd as soon as we have a clear picture of the devolution consequences of the proposed legislation. Whilst this will be outside the normal two-week Standing Order 29 deadline, we hope to lay early in the Senedd's summer recess.

We are copying this letter to the First Minister, the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, the Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Human Rights.

Yours sincerely



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