

John Griffiths MS

Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee

10 March 2023

Supplementary LCM (Memorandum No.5) for the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 23 February concerning the limited time that was available to scrutinise the Supplementary LCM (Memorandum No.5) on the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill.

Business Committee considered the letter on 28 February and noted the concerns that you raised, both in relation to this SLCM and the LCM process in general. We appreciate the impact that limited scrutiny time has on the degree of scrutiny that is possible. During our consideration of your letter, the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd reflected that the issues in this case had been caused by the late agreement of amendments at Westminster and limited prior engagement between the UK Government and the Welsh Government.

At the same meeting, we received a letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd in relation to similar issues on a different LCM. In that letter, the Minister stated that the Welsh Government remains committed to laying LCMs “in a timely fashion and to ensuring the Senedd is given as much opportunity for scrutiny as possible”. The letter also asserts that the Welsh Government will continue to raise with the UK Government the importance of better engagement and will ask that the UK Government accommodates Senedd processes in their Bill timetabling considerations.

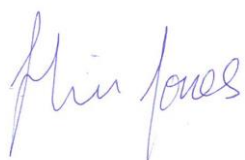


As you will be aware, the Minister for Climate Change echoed similar sentiments during the Plenary debate on the LCM on the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill, also on 28 February.

In the same debate, the Minister confirmed that further amendments had been tabled to the Bill at Westminster and that these may trigger a further requirement for consent. The Minister confirmed her intention to write to the UK Government to reflect the impact of this on the Senedd's ability to effectively scrutinise the Bill. As a Business Committee, we will continue to keep these matters under review.

I would like to thank your Committee for the work that it has undertaken to date and will enclose a copy of this letter to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee who have previously raised similar concerns.

Kind regards,



The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.