



Ein cyf/Our ref: CG/PO/339/2024

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

19 November 2024

Dear Peredur

Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Bill

I refer to your letter of 5 November 2024. The information below is provided in response to your Committee's questions. References to a paragraph or Table are references to the Explanatory Memorandum, unless indicated otherwise.

Can you outline the initial costs of the Bill and how confident are you in these estimates?

The only initial cost is the transitional cost set out in Table 4 and paragraph 112. As this estimate has been provided by The National Archives (upon whom the costs will fall and who will be responsible for amending the publishing systems and legislation.gov.uk website to reflect Welsh Statutory Instruments) I am as confident as I can be that it is accurate.

The Bill identifies a saving of £11.5k savings per year, how are these savings generated and are you confident the savings can be met each year?

As set out in Table 4 and paragraph 116, these savings will be achieved by no longer requiring certain road traffic orders to be made as statutory instruments. See section 2 of the Bill (and paragraphs 68 to 71 of the Explanatory Notes).

Paragraph 96 explains that TSO (now a private company) charges Governments and departments in the UK Government fees for publishing legislation. The fees are set in the current contract awarded by The National Archives. From 1 October 2023 a "non-print statutory instrument" is charged at £95.00 – see Table 5. The road traffic orders covered by section 2 of the Bill are classified as "local" instruments and as such are charged at the "non-print statutory instrument" fee level.

Since, under the provisions in the Bill, certain road traffic orders will not be made as a statutory instrument, the non-print fee will no longer be charged. This results in savings, estimated at £11.5k per annum to the Welsh Government. I am unable to give complete assurance that these savings will be met as there is no way of forecasting how many "local" instruments will be made in any given year, but this is the best estimate based on information from the previous 4 years.

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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.

Will the savings be £11.5k each year as estimated, or is this an average over the period of the Bill? If they do fluctuate what is the yearly breakdown?

Paragraph 99 and Table 6 show the number and cost of local statutory instruments made over the past four financial years (2020-21 to 2023-24). As can be seen from Table 6, the actual number of instruments made each year varies and it is not possible to forecast how many “local” instruments will be made in future years. However, as explained in paragraph 116 the estimate of the savings to be achieved is based on an annual average of the number of instruments made over the past four years (121 instruments) at the current cost of £95.00 per instrument and represents our best estimate of the likely annual cost-saving at this stage.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS

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