

# Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee Monitoring Report

May 2025

## Key points

A UK-EU summit is scheduled to be held on 19 May, which is expected to launch more detailed discussions around the future UK-EU relationship.

The European Commission published its work programme in February, which sets out 51 new policy initiatives.

The UK Government published the terms of reference for the Independent Review into the functioning of the Windsor Framework, which will be conducted by Lord Murphy of Torfaen.

The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru announced the constituencies for the 2026 Senedd election. The Commission's final report has been laid before the Senedd.

The Welsh Government has confirmed the membership of its Innovating Democracy Advisory Group.

The Welsh Government has published voluntary diversity and inclusion guidance to support political parties standing candidates at Welsh elections.

The Welsh Government announced new campaign expenditure limits for the 2026 Senedd election. The proposal is to set a limit of £52,500 for individual candidates. For political parties, a list of one candidate would have a limit of



£52,500, which would then increase by £3,500 for every additional candidate on the list, up to a maximum of £70,000 for a list of six or more.

The Office for the Internal Market has laid its third annual report on developments in the UK internal Market, covering the period from April 2024 to March 2025. The report finds “no evidence of a substantial adverse impact on trade arising from regulatory developments across the nations”.

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons published a report on an unannounced inspection of HMP Parc. The inspection took place in January 2025. The report states that there has been a “serious decline in standards” at the prison.

# Contents

<b>Key points .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. UK-EU relations.....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1. UK-EU reset .....	5
2.2. Trade and Cooperation Agreement.....	6
2.3. Withdrawal Agreement .....	7
2.4. Retained EU / Assimilated Law .....	8
2.5. Other developments.....	8
<b>3. Intergovernmental and interparliamentary relations.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1. Intergovernmental relations.....	9
3.2. Interparliamentary relations.....	11
<b>4. Legislation .....</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1. Senedd .....	12
4.2. UK.....	13
<b>5. Legislative Consent.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6. Constitution .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>7. Senedd reform and elections.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>8. UK Internal Market Act .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>9. Justice .....</b>	<b>23</b>
9.1. Wales.....	23
9.2. UK .....	24
<b>10. Annex: Glossary .....</b>	<b>26</b>

# 1. Introduction

The Legislation, Justice and Constitution (LJC) Committee has a broad remit covering a wide range of areas. This monitoring report is intended to provide Members of the Committee with an update on key policy developments related to the Committee's remit. The report covers the period from **8 January 2025** to **30 April 2025**.

The Committee will consider these issues and any actions that it wishes to take in response. This report is being published to inform stakeholders of some of the issues currently under consideration by the Committee.

A glossary of key terms is included as an Annex.

## 2. UK-EU relations

### 2.1. UK-EU reset

**In February, it was reported that the UK-EU summit is to be held in May, with the summit's focus described by European Council President António Costa as devising “the closest relationship it will be possible to build together.”**

Prime Minister, Keir Starmer MP, will be hosting the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen and President of the European Council, António Costa. It has also been reported that EU ministerial meetings are being rescheduled to allow Kaja Kallas, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to attend the Summit. Speaking to the House of Lords European Affairs Committee, the Minister for EU Relations, Nick Thomas-Symonds described the summit as a “a very clear milestone” and said he was looking to produce “deliverables” in time for the event.

On 24 April, Keir Starmer and Ursula Von Der Leyen met in London, during which they discussed Ukraine, energy security, the global economy, and defence. A UK Government statement said that:

*They asked their teams to continue their important work in the coming weeks, with the aim of delivering as ambitious a package as possible at the first UK-EU summit next month.*

Senedd Committees took evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Rebecca Evans MS, in April, as part of their inquiry into the TCA implementation review (further information can be found in section 2.2). An official said the next inter-ministerial group on UK-EU relations was due to be held before the UK-EU summit in May but a date is not confirmed. The Minister could also not confirm whether the Welsh Government would be in attendance at the Summit.

**Addressing the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) in March, Maroš Šefčovič, EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, outlined several key issues for the EU, including citizens' rights.**

The other priority areas were security and resilience, youth mobility and the “protection of the planet and its resources”. The PPA co-chairs, Sandro Gozi MEP and Marsha de Cordova MP, issued a joint statement which also called for more

cooperation on youth opportunities, progress towards net zero, and reducing barriers to trade.

The PPA adopted a recommendation ahead of the UK-EU summit in May. It made several calls, including:

- that “special attention” be given to Northern Ireland “due to its specific situation in particular the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement”;
- stressing the need to reduce barriers to trade, calling for “progress on bilateral trade relations” and for both sides to “exploit the full potential of the TCA”;
- For the UK and EU to explore options for closer customs cooperation and alignment of regulatory standards;
- For consideration to be given to linking their respective Emission Trading Schemes and to work together to “deepen renewable energy cooperation in the North Sea”;
- For foreign and security policy coordination be enhanced in line with the provisions of the Political Declaration of 2019 to establish structured consultation and regular thematic and sectoral dialogues.

## **2.2. Trade and Cooperation Agreement**

**On 2 April, four Senedd Committees took evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Rebecca Evans MS, as part of their inquiry into the TCA implementation review.**

The Minister was questioned on Welsh Government engagement with the UK Government around priorities for both the review and EU reset. An official present noted that the Welsh Government are not aware of any documentation which lays out the UK Government’s negotiating position.

**On 28-30 January 2025, the UK and EU took part in an arbitration hearing in a dispute over a UK ban on sandeel fishing.**

This is the first time a dispute under the TCA has reached arbitration stage. The arbitration panel was established on 19 November 2024, and both parties agreed to use the services of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The decision is still pending but a final ruling was expected within 130 days of the establishment of the arbitration tribunal (by the end of March 2025).

**Minutes for a number of Specialised Committees and Trade Specialised Committees under the TCA have been published:**

- The minutes for the Trade Specialised Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures were published on 26 March. The meeting took place in October;
- The minutes for the Specialised Committee on Air Transport were published in January. The meeting took place in September;
- The minutes for the Specialised Committee on Aviation Safety were published on 27 March. The meeting was held in November;
- The minutes for the Specialised Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade were published in February. The meeting took place in October;
- The minutes for the Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital Trade were published in January. The meeting took place in October;
- The minutes for the Specialised Committee on Intellectual Property were published in January. The meeting took place in November;
- The minutes for the Specialised Committee on Public Procurement were published in January. The meeting took place in October; and
- The minutes for the Specialised Committee on Regulatory Cooperation were published in April. The meeting took place in November.

**2.3. Withdrawal Agreement****In January 2025, the UK Government published the terms of reference for the Independent Review into the functioning of the Windsor Framework.**

The review was commissioned by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland after a democratic consent motion to continue the application of articles 5 to 10 of Framework was passed in the Northern Ireland Assembly in December by a majority of the Members but without cross-community support.

It will be conducted by Lord Murphy of Torfaen. He must provide a report of the review's conclusions "no later than six months after having been commissioned". A call for written feedback has also been published, and is due to close on 31 May.

## 2.4. Retained EU / Assimilated Law

**The UK Government published its Assimilated Law Parliamentary Report for June to December 2024.**

Under the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023, the UK Government is required to publish biannual reports on steps to revoke or reform assimilated law. The table below shows the current status of assimilated law as of 23 December 2024.

<b>Current status of total assimilated law</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Amended	806	~12%
Repealed	1,484	~22%
Replaced	43	<1%
Expired	62	<1%
Unchanged	4,417	~64%
To be confirmed	89	~1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,901</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2.5. Other developments

**The European Commission published its work programme in February, which sets out 51 new policy initiatives.**

## 3. Intergovernmental and interparliamentary relations

### 3.1. Intergovernmental relations

**Meetings have continued between the Welsh and UK governments within formal intergovernmental structures since the 2024 UK general election.**

At time of writing, Senedd Research has noted 20 confirmed formal intergovernmental meetings involving the Welsh and UK governments since July 2024<sup>1</sup>.

In December 2024, the [Interministerial Group for Health and Social Care](#) held its inaugural meeting.

Our [research article](#) provides more information.

**In February 2025, the First Minister noted that a “review of intergovernmental relations is being undertaken at the moment”. In March 2025, she suggested that this review will look at the composition of interministerial groups.**

In a [written statement](#) following a meeting of the Interministerial Standing Committee in February, the Welsh Government stated that:

*...the Committee recommended that officials across all governments consider portfolio level working arrangements, with a view to ensuring that interministerial engagement is operating efficiently and effectively within the appropriate structures. Findings and recommendations will be presented to the Committee for agreement at a future meeting.*

**The Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister held a topical scrutiny session on intergovernmental relations in March 2025.**

Discussion included the use of formal intergovernmental structures, legislative consent memoranda and potential areas of further devolution.

---

<sup>1</sup> ‘Confirmed’ meetings are where a summary has been received from the Welsh Government or the UK Government has published a communiqué/press release. The total number is 21 if the new [UK Tree Planting Taskforce](#) is included.

---

During the session, the First Minister spoke of the “huge difference” in relations since the 2024 UK general election.

**The second meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions is set to take place during spring 2025.**

The UK Government said in March 2025 that the existing Prime Minister and Heads of Devolved Governments Council will continue to meet on the same day as the new Council. The UK Government later confirmed this had been agreed with the devolved governments.

**The Welsh Government has published several agreements with the UK Government, including:**

- Memorandum of Understanding between the UK government and the Welsh Government: Investment zones;
- Memorandum of understanding: the use of UK government funding for city and regional growth deals; and
- Concordat between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Welsh Government.

**On 28 April 2025, the House of Lords debated the Constitution Committee report The Governance of the Union: Consultation, Co-operation and Legislative Consent.**

UK Government Whip, Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent, said that there are now “frequent, proactive engagement between Ministers and their devolved counterparts on a range of issues”.

**PolicyWISE and the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge are collaborating on a research project on the Council of the Nations and Regions.**

The PolicyWISE website notes that the report will include:

- Insights from interviews with key policy makers in each UK nation;
- A review of existing intergovernmental structures and research, as well as international case studies; and

- A historical appreciation of the distinctive ways in which relations between government heads have been institutionalised in the UK context, since devolution was first introduced.

### **3.2. Interparliamentary relations**

#### **The Interparliamentary Finance Committee Forum met in March 2025 at the Northern Ireland Assembly.**

The Forum included a meeting with Darren Jones MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. The Forum agreed to write to the Chief Secretary on a number of issues, including giving evidence to parliamentary committees and the need for greater engagement between the Treasury and devolved legislatures.

## 4. Legislation

### 4.1. Senedd

**On 29 April 2025, the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, Julie James MS, delivered the Welsh Government's legislative statement for the final year of the Senedd term.**

The statement included commitments to introduce legislation on:

- Homelessness;
- Building safety;
- Environmental governance;
- Senedd Member accountability;
- Visitor accommodation;
- Greyhound racing; and
- Planning law.

**There are currently 5 Bills progressing through the Senedd. At time of writing:**

- one is at Stage 1:
  - *Bus Services (Wales) Bill*
- two are at Stage 2:
  - *Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill*
  - *Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill*
- two are at Stage 3:
  - *Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill*
  - *Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Bill*

**The LJC Committee has been leading the scrutiny of the *Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Bill*.**

The Committee published its report on the general principles of the Bill on 14 February 2025. It recommended that the Senedd support the Bill's general principles.

Stage 2 proceedings for the Bill took place on 31 March 2025. Stage 3 proceedings are scheduled for 13 May 2025.

## 4.2. UK

**The *Crown Estate Act 2025* has received Royal Assent. The Act aims to modernise the operation of the Crown Estate.**

The Act creates “commissioners with special responsibility”, which must include a commissioner responsible for giving advice about Wales in relation to the operation of the Crown Estate. The UK Government must consult Welsh Government Ministers before the commissioner is appointed.

**The *Water (Special Measures) Act 2025* has received Royal Assent. The Act makes provision about the regulation, governance and special administration of water companies.**

The LJC Committee's report on the legislative consent memoranda (LCMs) for the then Bill was critical of the Welsh Government using the Bill to seek provision for Wales.

**The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* is at report stage in the House of Commons. The Private Members' Bill seeks to allow adults who are terminally ill, subject to safeguards and protections, to request and be provided with assistance to end their own life.**

On 25 March, amendments were agreed to the Bill in relation to Wales. New clause 37 gives the Welsh Ministers the power to make regulations about voluntary assisted dying services in Wales. Such regulations can only make provision that would be within the legislative competence of the Senedd.

Amendment 535 provides the Welsh Ministers with the power to commence all sections of the Bill, except sections 37-43, by regulations subject to the affirmative procedure in the Senedd and removes the automatic commencement as it relates to Wales.

## 5. Legislative Consent

**Since the UK Government came to power in July 2024, 36 Legislative Consent Memoranda (LCMs) and Supplementary LCMs (SLCMs) have been laid relating to 16 Bills, bringing the total to 151 LCMs and SLCMs relating to 63 Bills in the Sixth Senedd.**

Bills for which the Welsh Government has recently laid LCMs include:

- The *Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Bill*. The Welsh Government laid an LCM on 7 February 2025, and an SLCM on 6 March 2025. It recommends that the Senedd grants its consent.
- The *Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill*. The Welsh Government laid an LCM on 17 February 2025, within which it recommends that consent is given.
- The *Bus Services (No. 2) Bill*. The Welsh Government laid an LCM on 11 March 2025, within which it recommends that consent is given.
- The *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill*. The Welsh Government laid an LCM on 24 March 2025, within which it recommends that consent is given.
- The *Planning and Infrastructure Bill*. The Welsh Government laid an LCM on 26 March 2025, within which it advises that it is seeking further engagement with the UK Government on certain clauses before recommending the Senedd grants consent.
- The *Crime and Policing Bill*. The Welsh Government laid an LCM on 28 March 2025, within which it recommends that consent is given for most provisions, except 'I-LEAP' clauses, for which engagement is ongoing.
- The *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*. The Welsh Government laid an LCM on 9 April 2025, within which it notes that the Welsh Government is engaging with the UK Government on the implications of the Bill on devolved matters.

**The LJC Committee has highlighted its concerns over the Welsh Government's use of UK Bills in devolved areas in recent LCM reports.**

For example, in its *report on the Welsh Government's LCM on the Renters' Rights Bill*, the Committee said that the Welsh Government's approach "represents a regrettable and unwelcome approach to devolution".

Similarly, in its report on the Welsh Government's LCMs on the *Water (Special Measures) Bill*, the Committee said that the Welsh Government's use of the Bill was "reminiscent of the executive devolution of the First and Second Assemblies, which is both unsatisfactory and regrettable".

**At a meeting of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister in March 2025, the First Minister discussed the use of LCMs.**

She suggested that there instances when the Welsh Government wants to "hitch a ride on the bus", that is, use a UK Bill to introduce a policy with which it agrees.

At the meeting in March, a Welsh Government official said that he was expecting there to be more formal conversations relating to the new memorandum of understanding on the Sewel Convention in the coming months. The UK Government said it hopes that an agreed MoU will be published this year.

**University College London's Global Centre for Democratic Constitutionalism held an event on legislative consent after Brexit in March 2025.**

Professor Aileen McHarg and Dr Christopher McCorkindale are intending to release a paper on the subject.

## 6. Constitution

**The Welsh Government has confirmed the membership of its Innovating Democracy Advisory Group. The Group is being established in response to the recommendations of the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales.**

Full biographies of group members can be found [here](#).

The Institute of Welsh Affairs published a report on fostering democratic innovations in Wales. One of the co-authors of the report is Dr Anwen Elias, chair of Welsh Government's Innovating Democracy Advisory Group.

**In preparation for the next Senedd term, the Future Senedd Committee has been working on Standing Order thresholds, the organisation of Senedd business, and solutions to barriers to representation.**

In March 2025, the Committee published its report on Standing Order thresholds, which made 14 recommendations.

**The Business Committee is undertaking a review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes in the Senedd.**

The Committee's consultation on the matters closed on 28 March 2025.

**The Senedd's Local Government and Housing Committee published its report on the role, governance and accountability of the community and town council sector in March 2025.**

The Committee made 11 recommendations, including relating to the development of a new bespoke audit system for town and community councils in Wales.

**The House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution published its report following its inquiry into executive oversight and responsibility for the UK constitution.**

Recommendations within the report include that the UK Government should set out how it expects the Council of the Nations and Regions to "improve upon earlier and existing intergovernmental structures and deliver positive and effective engagement across the UK", and how it will measure this.

In its response to the report, the UK Government said that the Council complements existing IGR structures and would “drive effective outcomes across the UK”.

**The Scottish Parliament’s Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee published its report on framework legislation and Henry VIII powers.**

The Committee states that, wherever possible, “the detail of legislation to be spelled out on the face of a Bill to allow for transparency, proper democratic engagement, and so that stakeholders and parliamentarians can engage with and scrutinise solid proposals”.

The Chair of the LJC Committee, Mike Hedges MS, gave evidence to the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee during its Inquiry.

**In March 2025, University College London’s Constitution Unit published a paper on options for constitutional reform in the UK.**

The report suggests options for reform in 31 areas, including on the structure of the Union, intergovernmental relations, and legislative consent.

## 7. Senedd reform and elections

### **The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru announced the constituencies for the 2026 Senedd election.**

The Welsh Government is required to make secondary legislation to bring the Commission's decisions into law. The new constituencies do not require the Senedd's approval, and will be adopted automatically.

### **The Welsh Government published voluntary diversity and inclusion guidance to support political parties standing candidates at Welsh elections.**

The publication includes guidance on developing diversity and inclusion strategies, implementing voluntary quotas for women candidates, and collecting candidate diversity information.

The UK Minister of State, Office for Equality and Opportunity, Baroness Smith of Malvern, stated that the UK Government is committed to "commencing the Equality Act 2010's provision requiring registered political parties to publish anonymised data relating to the diversity of their candidate selections".

### **The Welsh Government provided further information on automatic voter registration trials taking place in Carmarthenshire, Gwynedd, Newport and Powys.**

The statement notes that "Carmarthenshire and Powys will be making a replica of the local government register using locally held data" to allow them to "compare which data sources would best identify the local electorate, without changing the existing register".

Gwynedd, Newport and Powys will "identify and verify potential electors using council-held data, before adding them to the register".

### **The Senedd approved regulations to develop a Welsh elections information platform.**

The platform is intended to provide up-to-date information to electors to support their participation in Senedd and principal council elections.

The Electoral Management Board, established by the *Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024*, will operate the platform.

**The Senedd's Standards of Conduct Committee published two reports relating to its work on Individual Member Accountability.**

The Committee's report on recall was published in January 2025. The Committee recommended a recall system that "has one stage which puts to electorate a question based around the principle of retain the Member or remove and replace them with the next candidate on their party list at the last Senedd election". The Welsh Government accepted this recommendation.

The Committee's report on deliberate deception was published in February 2025. The report makes 11 recommendations. The Welsh Government published its response in March.

**The Welsh Government announced funding to explore ways to make polling stations more accessible ahead of the 2026 Senedd Election.**

The announcement followed a report by the Royal National Institute of Blind People, which found that only a quarter of blind people felt the current system allows them to vote independently and in secret.

**In February 2025, the Senedd's Reform Bill Committee published its report on the Draft Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025, which sets out how the Senedd election and its campaign should be managed, as well as process for legal challenges to an election.**

The Committee made five recommendations, including relating to ensuring that the ballots for Senedd elections are fully accessible.

**The Welsh Government announced new campaign expenditure limits for the 2026 Senedd election.**

The proposal is to set a limit of £52,500 for individual candidates. For political parties, a list of one candidate would have a limit of £52,500, which would then increase by £3,500 for every additional candidate on the list, up to a maximum of £70,000 for a list of six or more.

To action this, two pieces of secondary legislation (including the Conduct Order) will be introduced to the Senedd during the summer term.

**The Welsh Government announced that it has commissioned Alma Economics to conduct research into the impact of socio-economic influences on democratic participation in Wales.**

The research will aim to help the Welsh Government better understand the barriers people are facing to engaging in our democracy and how these might be addressed in the future.

**The *Absent Voting (Elections in Scotland and Wales) Bill* is progressing through the House of Commons. The Private Members' Bill would allow Scottish and Welsh Ministers to make regulations providing for “the alignment of rules on absent voting arrangements between reserved and devolved elections”.**

The “main aim” of the Bill is to enable voters to apply online for absent votes for devolved elections. At present, a paper form is needed for absent voting applications for devolved elections. The operation of the UK Digital Service is a reserved matter.

## 8. UK Internal Market Act

**On 26 March 2025, the Office for the Internal Market (OIM) laid its third annual report on developments in the UK internal Market, covering the period from April 2024 to March 2025.**

The report states that:

*...the operation of the UK internal market is stable and that the internal market continues to function consistently. There is no evidence of a substantial adverse impact on trade arising from regulatory developments across the nations.*

The report identifies one new area of potential regulatory difference since April 2024 (electronic tagging of livestock).

**The OIM published a regulatory developments dashboard in March 2025, which will allow users to explore data relating to potential regulatory differences that the OIM is tracking.**

The dashboard will be updated on a quarterly basis so that it continues to represent the OIM's work.

**The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, Pat McFadden MP, said that the UK Government hopes to finalise the Common Frameworks programme by the end of 2025.**

In an earlier written statement on the review of the UK Internal Market Act, the UK Government had said that it hoped to finalise the programme by Easter 2025.

**The OIM published an insights paper, following an event held in September 2024 that aimed to exchange information and ideas to support understanding of intra-UK trade data**

The paper summarises discussions had at the event, including on what data is currently available, who is producing it, and how the Office can effectively combine data from different sources to enrich its understanding of intra-UK economic relationships.

**In February 2025, the OIM published a report on the impact of Single-Use Plastic (SUP) restrictions on the internal market of the UK.**

The report finds that the “overall effects of SUP regulations on internal market trade have been modest”.

**The Scottish Government published a position paper on the Internal Market Act, following the UK Government’s announcement of a review of the Act.**

The paper criticises the UK Government for not considering repealing the Act in the review, and states that:

*The unilaterally determined terms of the statutory review are unlikely, in the Scottish Government’s view, to deliver the change necessary.*

## 9. Justice

### 9.1. Wales

#### **On 11 March, the Senedd debated the President of Welsh Tribunals Fifth Annual Report 2023-24.**

During the debate, the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery, Julie James MS, said that reform of the tribunals system was about “delivering a fair and effective justice programme for people across Wales”, and stressed that the work was a priority for the Welsh Government.

This [Senedd Research article](#) sets out more information about the report.

#### **On 23 April 2025, a report on an unannounced inspection of HMP Parc by HM Inspectorate of Prisons in January was published.**

The report states that HMP Parc had suffered a serious deterioration in standards since the previous inspection in 2022 and that since winning the contract to run the prison, G4S had “failed to maintain the high standards for which Parc was renowned”.

#### **The Chair of the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee, Ruth Jones MP, wrote to HMP Parc following reports that prison officers sent messages joking about violence towards prisoners.**

Ruth Jones MP asked for an update on G4S guidance for prison officers and the sanctions for violating the guidelines.

#### **The Welsh Affairs Committee launched an inquiry into prisons, probation and rehabilitation in Wales.**

The Committee will consider “the challenges and opportunities that are presented by this unique constitutional arrangement, examining where the UK and Welsh Governments are working well together, as well as identifying areas for improvement”.

The Committee’s call for evidence closed on 28 March 2025.

#### **The First Minister discussed the potential devolution of parts of the justice system.**

Speaking to the Welsh Affairs Committee in February 2025, the First Minister, Eluned Morgan MS, said that conversations were ongoing with the UK

---

Government regarding the devolution of youth justice, but that “there are areas where we want to go further than the UK Government wants us to go”. On the devolution of policing, she said that:

*We have been clear in Welsh Government that policing is an area where we would like to see further devolution, but that is not necessarily where the UK Government are at this point.*

**The Welsh Government published its component of the Final Police Settlement for police forces in Wales for 2025-26.**

The Welsh Government set its contribution at £113.47 million.

## **9.2. UK**

**The House of Lords Constitution Committee launched an inquiry into the rule of law.**

The inquiry “is seeking to understand the rule of law as a constitutional principle and practical matter, and what the state of the rule of law is in the UK”.

**On 1 April 2025, the UK Government introduced the Sentencing Guidelines (Pre-Sentence Reports) Bill.**

The Bill aims to “prevent potential differential treatment arising from the Sentencing Council’s Imposition guidelines”.

**The House of Commons Justice Committee opened an inquiry into the work of the county court.**

The Committee notes that the inquiry comes “amid long-standing concerns over court capacity and resources”.

**In February 2025, the Independent Sentencing Review, chaired by David Gauke, published Part 1 of its report.**

The report “provides a comprehensive explanation of why and how prison population has sharply increased in recent decades and is expected to continue to grow”, and “advocates for an approach to sentencing that is rooted in the principles of sentencing and public service reform”.

**Three expert advisers have been appointed to support Sir Brian Leveson on the Independent Review of the Criminal Courts.**










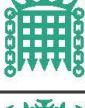
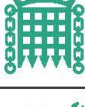


Shaun McNally, Professor David Ormerod and Chris Mayer will support the review as it makes recommendations for long-term reform of the criminal courts in England and Wales.

**The UK Government opened a consultation on proposals to replace the current organisation of magistrates' courts following the abolition of Local Justice Areas.**

The consultation closes on 23 June 2025.

## 10. Annex: Glossary

### Post-Brexit framework: key terms

International obligations		International duties and commitments of the UK
Trade agreements		Establish new trading arrangements between the UK and other countries
International agreements		Agreements between the UK and other countries or organisations
UK-EU Trade & Cooperation Agreement		Establishes the new UK-EU relationship
UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement		Sets the terms of the UK's exit from the EU
Protocol on Ireland-Northern Ireland		Part of the Withdrawal Agreement to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland
EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018		Converted EU law to domestic law, stops new EU laws having automatic effect in the UK and gives Ministers powers to correct the statute book after leaving the EU
EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020		Implements the Withdrawal Agreement
EU (Future Relationship) Act 2020		Implements the Trade & Cooperation Agreement
Internal Market Act 2020		Establishes rules for the regulation of goods, services and qualifications across the UK
Common Frameworks		Set up UK-wide frameworks for some areas previously governed by the EU
Implementing regulations		Regulations passed in the Senedd or UK Parliament to implement the new arrangements
Correcting regulations		Regulations passed in the Senedd or UK Parliament to make EU laws retained after leaving the EU workable in a domestic context

