
The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Crime and Policing Bill

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

July 2025

In June 2025, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee ("the Committee") submitted its report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum ("the LCM") on the Crime and Policing Bill. The report includes 3 recommendations. This is the Welsh Government's response to those recommendations.

Introduction

The Crime and Policing Bill ("the Bill") was introduced in the UK Parliament, the House of Commons, on 25 February 2025.

The UK Government's stated policy objectives for the Bill are to:

- Tackle the epidemic of serious violence, child sexual abuse and violence against women and girls that stains our society.
- Protect the public and our town centres from antisocial behaviour, retail crime and shop theft.
- Equip the police and others with the powers they need to combat antisocial behaviour, crime and terrorism.
- Rebuild public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system.

The Welsh Government is committed to delivering these important objectives and I laid an LCM on 28 March 2025 to this effect. It is welcome to see that the Committee agrees with the Welsh Government's assessment, as set out in the LCM, of the provisions within the Bill which require the consent of the Senedd in accordance with Standing Order 29.

I thank the members of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee for their report on the Welsh Government's LCM on the Crime and Policing Bill. I have set out my response to the Report's individual recommendations below.

Response to the 3 recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that:

The Cabinet Secretary should provide more clarity about why she considers that it is “in Wales’ best interests” to include provision within the legislative competence of the Senedd in this Bill, introduced to the UK Parliament, and not in a Bill to be considered by the Senedd.

Response: Accept

In my view, it is appropriate to deal with these provisions in a UK Bill as they cover both devolved and reserved matters and our inclusion in this UK legislation enables policy objectives to be most effectively achieved.

Being part of this Bill ensures the people in Wales are being protected from serious violence and antisocial behaviour.

The Bill largely makes provision in reserved areas and interfaces with the wider criminal justice system. Not all the provisions for which the LCM has been laid would necessarily be within the competence of the Senedd. An LCM is though appropriate as they have regard to devolved areas, for instance by conferring reserved functions on devolved Welsh authorities.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications to this Bill as this time.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that:

The Cabinet Secretary should set out the Welsh Government’s position in respect of the I-LEAP provisions in clauses 127 to 129 of the Bill as introduced, and the preferred outcome of the Welsh Government’s engagement with the UK Government in respect of these clauses

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government’s position in respect of the I-LEAP provisions in clauses 127 – 129 of the Bill as introduced is captured in the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum laid on 2 July.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications to this Bill as this time.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that:

The Cabinet Secretary should provide further information to explain why the Welsh Government has not been able to reach agreement with the UK Government to date on clauses 127 to 129 of the Bill.

Response: Accept

As above, agreement has now been reached with the UK Government, regarding clauses 127-129 of the Bill.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications to this Bill as this time.
