
The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Victims and Courts Bill

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

August 2025

In July 2025, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee ("the Committee") submitted its report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum ("the LCM") on the Victims and Courts Bill ("the Bill").

The report agreed with our assessment and made no recommendations.

This is the Welsh Government's response.

Introduction

The Bill was introduced in the UK Parliament, the House of Commons, on 7 May 2025.

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

- a) Provide new powers for judges to punish offenders who refuse to attend sentencing, including a range of prison sanctions on top of additional years on their sentence.
- b) Automatically restrict parental responsibility for offenders sentenced for a serious sexual abuse offence against their own child.
- c) Strengthen the powers of the Victims' Commissioner to increase scrutiny of the systems which support victims.
- d) Provide victims with certainty about the routes available to receive information about their offender's release.

The Welsh Government is committed to delivering these important objectives and I laid an LCM on 20 May 2025 to this effect.

Response to the report

It is good to see that the Committee agrees with the Welsh Government's assessment, as set out in the LCM, regarding the provision within the Bill which requires the consent of the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 29.

I thank the members of the Committee for their assessment of the Welsh Government's LCM for this Bill.
