

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government

1 November 2022

Dear Julie

Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) on the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill

At our meeting on 27 October we considered the LCM on the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill. In order to enable us to make an informed decision on whether or not to recommend consent, we would be grateful for more information in two areas in particular.

Firstly, we note that clause 187 (vagrancy and begging) is a placeholder provision therefore it is not yet clear whether or not it is a relevant provision for the purposes of Standing Order 29. The LCM notes that clarity is being sought in relation to clause 187 as the application table in the Annex to the Explanatory Notes states it does not apply to Wales, however, as currently drafted the Secretary of State's powers to make regulations are not limited to England only. As I'm sure you can appreciate, we will not be in a position to make a decision on legislative consent until clause 187 is replaced by a substantive provision and clarity can be given on its application. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide an update as to any discussions that have taken place with the UK Government regarding clause 187.

Secondly, we note that the LCM states:

The UK Government identify the overall Bill will have financial implications for the public sector, including local government, central government and the Planning Inspectorate. The UK Government identifies these costs will all be balanced by efficiency savings.

However the LCM makes no reference to the Welsh Government's views on the financial implications of this Bill. We would therefore be grateful if you could outline your views on the financial implications of the Bill for Wales.

We would be grateful for a response by 10 November so that it can be considered when we next discuss the LCM at our meeting on 16 November.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee; the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee; and the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

John Griffiths MS

Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.