

Jane Hutt, MS
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

13 October 2020

Dear Jane

Domestic Abuse Bill LCM

In our letter to you of 30 September 2020 we stated that:

"We have noted that the LCM itself does not provide an analysis as to how the provisions listed in the LCM are within the Senedd's legislative competence. Given that the UK Government states in the Explanatory Notes to the Bill that the matters to which the provisions in the Bill relate "are not within the legislative competence of Senedd Cymru" and therefore consent is not required, we would be grateful if you would provide the analysis you undertook in order to determine that clauses 3, 65, 66, 68 and 73 fall within the Senedd's competence.

We also note that clause 3, where consent is sought, has a connection with the definition of "domestic abuse" in clause 1, which in turn is connected to the definition of "personally connected" in clause 2. Why you do consider that clauses 1 and 2 do not require the Senedd's consent when you believe that clause 3 does require consent?"



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Your response of 6 October said:

"It remains my view that there are good arguments as to why the provisions identified are within the legislative competence of the Senedd Cymru. The overall purpose of the Bill is to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and its impact on victims, the prevention of domestic abuse, including strengthening support for victims of abuse and their families; this has a clear impact on devolved matters."

However, we do not consider that this response provides our Committees with the appropriate level of information.

We would therefore be grateful if you could provide the analysis requested in our letter of 30 September, which is customary for inclusion in Welsh Government Legislative Consent Memoranda. In essence, this should amount to detailed information about how specific clauses in the Bill (that you identify) fall within the Senedd's legislative competence and accordingly the reasons why consent is being sought.

In view of our reporting deadline, **we would be grateful to receive this analysis by no later than 2pm on Thursday 15 October 2020.**

Yours sincerely



Mick Antoniw

Chair, Legislation, Justice
and Constitution Committee



John Griffiths

Chair, Equality, Local Government and
Communities Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

