



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/119/2023

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

By Email: SeneddPAPA@senedd.wales

13 April 2023

Dear Mark,

The UK Government's Procurement Bill – supplementary legislative consent memoranda

Thank you for the report on the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memoranda (LCM) 3, 4 and 5 on the Procurement Bill which was laid in the Senedd on 21 March.

I responded to the points you raised in your recommendation during the Procurement Bill debate in Plenary on 28 March, however I am pleased to provide my formal response below.

Recommendation 1

We recommend that the Minister for Finance and Local Government give further and more detailed consideration to the potential financial implications of not giving consent to a Minister of the Crown to commence provisions in the Bill given the insufficient detail contained in the financial section of Memorandum No. 5.

Both the Welsh and UK Governments are committed to commencing the provisions of the Bill at the same time to avoid the detrimental impact on cross-border suppliers and buyers of doing otherwise. This topic has been discussed at ministerial and official level several times and it has been collectively agreed that commencing at the same time is crucial.

That said, if Welsh Ministers withheld consent to the date of commencement of certain provisions of the Bill, there could be a potential delay in commencement for Welsh Contracting Authorities.

The financial and operational implications of withholding consent cannot be determined at this time as the implications would be dependent on the length of the expected delay. However, the practical implications and the financial implications to Welsh Contracting

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Authorities and the economy would be fully considered by Welsh Ministers prior to any decision to withhold consent being made.

I trust the response provided is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need anything further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government