

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Health and Social Care Committee**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Lesley Griffiths AM
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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11 February 2013

Dear Minister

The Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases (Wales) Bill

As you will be aware, the Health and Social Care Committee is currently scrutinising the Recovery of Medical Costs for Asbestos Diseases Bill, and is in the process of preparing its Stage 1 report on the Bill.

The Committee identified the role of the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU), in administering the recovery of costs under the Bill, as an issue from the outset. As a result, I wrote in December to the CRU asking for clarification on a number of points. I attach my letter as background. I have now received a reply from the CRU, which is also attached for your information.

During the Committee's recent consideration of key issues the need for greater clarity and certainty about the CRU's role was identified as a concern, if the Bill is to proceed to more detailed scrutiny at Stage 2. In my view, the CRU's response is likely to highlight the need for greater clarity about involvement of the Unit, as envisaged in the Bill.

The Committee will consider its draft report on Wednesday 20 February, when it will also have a chance to discuss the CRU's letter. It would be very helpful if the Committee could also have the benefit of your views when it considered the CRU's response. In particular, I would be grateful for any

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update on progress in securing an in principle agreement that the CRU will undertake the work envisaged in the Explanatory Memorandum.

I am writing in similar terms to Mick Antoniw AM, the Member in charge of the Bill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the signature.

Mark Drakeford AM
Chair