

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

David Rees AM
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales

3 February 2015

Dear David,

I am writing to draw your attention to a Legislative Consent Memorandum which I laid before the Assembly on Friday 30 January. It is not normal practice for Ministers to write directly in this way, but for the reasons set out below I think it appropriate in this instance. A copy of the Memorandum is attached.

The Serious Crime Bill, currently before Parliament completed Committee stage in the House of Commons on 22 January, having been introduced in the Lords.

The Assembly has previously passed two Legislative Consent Motions in respect of amendments to this Bill, firstly in respect of an extension of the offence of child cruelty (at Report stage in the Lords), and secondly in respect of coercive or controlling behaviour (at Committee stage in the Commons).

A number of amendments were tabled by the UK Government on 8 January which required careful consideration as to whether they give rise to the need for the legislative consent of the National Assembly for Wales. Among these was an amendment creating an offence of sexual communication with a child, and the Memorandum I have laid sets out the reasons why this provision falls within the legislative competence of the Assembly.

I note that Business Committee has agreed this morning that the Memorandum will be considered in Plenary on 10 February. Given the late stage of the Bill in Parliament, timescales are exceptionally short. I wanted to ensure that you were made aware as early as possible.

I am also copying this letter to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee and to Elin Jones AM, Kirsty Williams AM, and Darren Millar AM as Party Spokespeople.

Best wishes

Mark Drakeford.

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