



Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Wales Office  
Gwydyr House  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NP

17<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Alun

## **WALES BILL**

We are writing to express our dismay at the allocation of time that has been agreed for the Committee (2 days) and Report/Third Reading (1 day) stages in the Commons. This timetable is plainly impossible and inadequate for serious scrutiny of such a fundamentally important Bill and we believe it could have serious implications for the Bill's prospects.

The Bill has been developed in an unsatisfactory way with a false start, significant changes of direction, and very rushed drafting in the final stages because of the requirement to introduce it earlier than anticipated. As a result, there remain many detailed inconsistencies and omissions, particularly in Schedules 1 and 2, which need to be ironed out. Yet the allocation of Committee time for those two Schedules, which consist of over forty pages of detailed text, is just three hours. The Welsh Government and others will suggest amendments on important policy issues, but this timetable will prevent detailed and necessary amendments from being considered. This is simply wrong. We ask that you respond as a matter of urgency suggesting how sufficient scrutiny time can be allowed to help get the Bill into shape to command the widest support possible across the National Assembly for Wales. Clearly different parties will have their own views on specific issues but, at the very least, there must be realism and good will in terms of time allowed for proper consideration of the Bill.

A copy of this goes to Nia Griffith MP, Shadow Secretary of State; Hywel Williams MP; and Mark Williams MP, at Westminster; to the Presiding Officer,

to David Melding AM, Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee in the Assembly; and to Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas in his role as the Plaid Cymru representative on the Constitutional Liaison Committee.



**CARWYN JONES AM**  
First Minister of Wales



**LEANNE WOOD AM**  
Plaid Cymru



**KIRSTY WILLIAMS AM**  
Welsh Liberal Democrats