

The Rt Hon. the Lord Lang of Monkton  
Constitution Committee  
House of Lords

14 July 2016

Dear Lord Lang

### **UK Government's Wales Bill**

As you may be aware, the National Assembly's Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the UK Government's Wales Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons on 7 June 2016 and has just completed its Committee Stage.

Our predecessor Committee in the Fourth Assembly examined the draft Wales Bill and I enclose a copy of its report.

While some of the concerns expressed in that report appear to have been addressed to some extent, the evidence we have taken to date from legal professionals and academics suggests that many have not.

There is still concern that some of the Assembly's legislative powers are being returned to Westminster. The Bill amends existing Government of Wales Acts and, in reserving powers, does so by referring to the subject matter of some 50 Acts of Parliament. As a result, there remain concerns that the resulting law will be exceptionally complex.

We are therefore becoming increasingly concerned that the Wales Bill, whether intentionally or not, could have a detrimental impact on the laws that are



proposed and made in Wales, as well hindering the accessibility of those laws to Welsh citizens.

As part of our consultation on the Bill, we are seeking written evidence over the summer and are using an online engagement platform to gauge the views of stakeholders during the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

My purpose in writing is to enquire whether it would be possible to meet with you to discuss the implications of the Bill for the Assembly in advance of any work you may undertake once the Bill has started its passage through the House of Lords. If it would be helpful, we could share our findings on the current Bill with you informally.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

**Huw Irranca-Davies**  
**Chair**

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

