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David Melding AM
Chair, Interim Committee on Constitutional and
Legislative Affairs
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Ref: SOS 16



20th June 2016

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June inviting me to give evidence to your Committee on the Wales Bill.

I valued greatly the pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Wales Bill undertaken by the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee and the Welsh Affairs Select Committee. The Wales Bill, which had its second reading on 14 June, is stronger as a result, and will have its Commons Committee sessions before the summer recess. I look forward to further debate and discussion of the Bill as it makes its way through the House of Commons and House of Lords.

I noted with particular interest the debate in the Assembly on the Bill on 15 June and am considering its points carefully. Given current diary pressures I am unable to accept your invitation to give evidence to your committee. I am, however, at the plenary session of the Assembly on 6th July where I am sure we will debate the Wales Bill further. I await your report with interest and will give careful thought to its conclusions.

*Yours,
Alun*

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
Secretary of State for Wales