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Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
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Wales Act 2017: Section 69 – Consequential Provision

Thank you for your letter of 27 January regarding your concerns about section 69 of the Wales Act 2017 which allows UK Ministers to amend Assembly legislation as a consequence of provisions in the Act.

The circumstances in which the power would be used were clearly explained during the parliamentary stages of the Wales Bill. My letters to the First Minister and Presiding Officer provide further assurance.

I believe the provision is a sensible and pragmatic way to ensure consistency across the statute book resulting from implementing the Wales Act. I do not agree your assertion that the approach adopted is constitutionally unsound.

I intend to keep the Welsh Government and Presiding Officer fully informed as devolution guidance is drafted to reflect the new reserved powers model and other related provisions in the Act.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister and the Presiding Officer

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