

First Minister
cc Counsel General
cc Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services
cc Llywydd

7 December 2018

Dear Carwyn,

Government engagement with Financial Scrutiny of Members' bills

The Committee has today reported on the financial implications of the Autism (Wales) Bill, introduced by Paul Davies AM. I wish to draw your attention to Conclusion 4 of our report:

Conclusion 4. The Committee is unable to make a decision on the validity or not of this Regulatory Impact Assessment. Members have not received any substantial financial reason for the legislation not to go forward, but we have been unable to ascertain whether there is any value for money in this legislation due to the lack of financial information.

The lack of financial information provided by the Welsh Government on the cost of delivering current Autism Spectrum Disorder services, means the Committee was unable to effectively scrutinise the figures presented by the Member in Charge. This has hindered the process of scrutiny.

Should the Assembly vote in favour of motion in accordance with 26.91, the Committee believes that the Welsh Government has a responsibility to provide AMs producing Member-led legislation with relevant financial information prior to a Bill being introduced, as it is generally the main source of such information.



Consequently, the Committee has recommended:

Recommendation 1. In future, should the Assembly vote in favour of the motion tabled in accordance with Standing Order 26.91 the Committee recommends that the Welsh Government commits to providing information to ensure that costs in an explanatory memorandum are as comprehensive and detailed as possible, utilising cost information which the Welsh Government has available.

Though the recommendation is contained in the Financial implications of the Autism (Wales) Bill report, the recommendation itself sits outside of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services' remit. I'm, therefore, copying the recommendation to yourself and the Counsel General directly for response. The Committee looks forward to the Government's formal response to this recommendation.

Yours sincerely



Llyr Gruffydd AM

Chair of the Finance Committee

