

Lesley Griffiths AM
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty
Welsh Government
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Cardiff Bay
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Your ref:
Our ref: PO/RB/AEJ

9 July 2015

Dear Lesley

During the debate on the General Principles of the Renting Homes (Wales) Bill in Plenary on 7 July, Members raised questions around whether the Bill complies with the European Convention on Human Rights. Such concerns were also raised in the Communities, Equalities and Local Government and Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committees' reports on the Bill.

On two occasions during the debate you referred to my statement on legislative competence at the time of the Bill's introduction as evidence that the Bill complied with the human rights requirements.

You will be aware that my view on competence at the start of the legislative process is based on the information I have before me, ie the text of the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum. It is the role of our committees to examine Bills in detail, to consult widely and to improve them through amendment. Given the complexity of the devolution settlement, it is perfectly proper for that detailed examination to raise issues of competence, including of compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights.

I do not expect the view that I give prior to introduction of a Bill to be used by the Government, or any other Member, to constrain that detailed scrutiny or as justification for a particular position.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh



Llywydd
Presiding Officer



I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee, the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, and the First Minister.

Rosemary

**Dame Rosemary Butler AM
Presiding Officer**