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Dear Counsel General,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 December setting out the Welsh Government's interim response to our report on the form and accessibility of the law applicable in Wales.

I am delighted to hear that the Welsh Government will be undertaking a pilot programme to further consider consolidation, codification and better publication. As you know, it is the Law Commission's view that, in addition to the likely economic benefits it will bring, accessible legislation empowers citizens and is essential to the proper rule of law. I commend the Welsh Government's vision in setting out on the path to clearer, better organised, bilingual law for Wales.

Of course, I very much hope that the pilot will ultimately result in the full programme of codification which we recommend. It is very clear that, to be a success, a programme of codification will require an enormous amount of hard work. A pilot programme seems a wise precaution. If the Commission can help in any way as your pilot proceeds, please let us know. I know that Commission lawyers are continuing to work productively with officials and lawyers in Cathays Park on our project to simplify planning law in Wales.

Thank you for your commitment to give further thought to our other recommendations, including that the Welsh Government and the National Assembly agree legislative standards to provide a yardstick against which legislation might be judged. At the most recent meeting of our Welsh Advisory Committee, the members endorsed our view that written standards for legislation could provide real assistance to government, legislators and, crucially, civil society. We noted in our Report the unusual level of engagement that civil society in Wales has with the policy-making and legislative processes. In addition to their use in government, legislative standards could therefore provide a useful focus for the ongoing conversation between the legislature and the people of Wales.

We look forward with interest to seeing the Welsh Government's reaction to our recommendations on the use of the Welsh language in legislation within the wider context of your new strategy.

I was very pleased to read your views on the *legislation.gov.uk* and *Cyfraith Cymru/Law Wales* websites. We share your belief that the internet provides unprecedented opportunities for making law accessible to those it affects. These existing sites have the potential to provide real benefits to the people of Wales.

Could I conclude by offering my thanks, on behalf of the Commission, to the officials in the Welsh Government and the Assembly Commission who assisted us with our work on this project? We were met with openness and willingness to engage with our ideas which speaks well for the chances of making this innovative programme of law reform a success.

Yours sincerely

The Rt. Hon. Sir David Bean

Chair, Law Commission of England and Wales