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Dear Colleague,

**Welsh Government Consultation on the Draft Legislation (Wales) Bill**  
**Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) response to Part 1: Accessibility of Welsh Law**

I write on behalf of the Judicial Appointments Commission Board (JAC). The JAC is an independent body established in April 2006 to select candidates for judicial office in courts and tribunals in England and Wales and for some tribunals whose jurisdiction extends across the UK. We welcome the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the Draft Legislation (Wales) Bill.

We do not feel that it is appropriate for us to respond to the consultation in detail, but we do wish to comment in general terms.

When selecting candidates for recommendation for roles in Wales, JAC policy is to assess candidates on their understanding, or their ability to acquire the understanding, of the administration of justice in Wales, including legislation applicable to Wales and Welsh devolution arrangements. We undertake these assessments for all legal roles and for non-legal roles where it is relevant to the role. The level of knowledge of Welsh law amongst candidates for these roles is somewhat variable.

The JAC therefore welcomes the intention, as described in Part 1 of the Consultation, to improve the accessibility of Welsh law. We believe that the proposed measures would facilitate a more constructive assessment of knowledge of Welsh law and be helpful to

candidates for judicial roles in Wales in their preparation for selection exercises. It would support those in judicial roles in Wales and ultimately benefit the quality of justice in Wales.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Noel Lloyd CBE**  
**Chair of the Welsh Matters Committee**  
**Judicial Appointments Commission**