



HOUSE OF LORDS

Select Committee on the Constitution

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Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Department of Communities of Local Government
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Dear Minister,

Telecommunications Infrastructure (Relief from Non-Domestic Rates) Bill

The Constitution Committee considered the Telecommunications Infrastructure (Relief from Non-Domestic Rates) Bill at its meeting on 11 October.

We note that the Henry VIII power in clause 4 of the Bill can be used by UK Ministers to amend Welsh primary legislation without any need for consultation with, or the consent of, the devolved institutions in Wales. The Delegated Powers Memorandum states that "In practice, the UK Government would liaise with the Welsh Government about the use of this power as necessary".

The Committee would be grateful for an explanation of why, if it is expected that consultation would take place regarding the use of the power in clause 4, the Bill does not include a duty to consult.

Yours ever,

Ana Taylor

Baroness Taylor of Bolton
Chairman of the Constitution Committee