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8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Ann,

**Telecommunications Infrastructure (Relief from Non-Domestic Rates) Bill**

Thank you for your letter of 27 November 2017 regarding the above Bill.

I appreciate the Committee's concerns on this matter. The powers to amend primary legislation are very narrow and are limited to matters which are consequential on the provisions in the Bill. The use of such powers must be absolutely necessary or clearly desirable to ensure the Bill works as intended. As such, the context in which the Bill would, as you suggest, allow UK Ministers to amend Welsh primary legislation would be very narrow and is one which the Welsh Assembly has approved in principle through a Legislative Consent Motion.

Nevertheless, we recognise the need to consult with the Welsh Government on this matter and, as I have said, we fully intend to consult in advance of exercising the powers. This arrangement is underpinned by the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK government and devolved administrations, which includes a commitment to consultation. These arrangements have worked well and we see no need to change them.

**LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH**