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4th September 2009

The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Culture and other fields) Order 2009

Dear Owain

Play Wales is the national organisation for children's play. We are the charity that provides advice, support and guidance for all those in Wales who have a concern or responsibility for any environment where children and young people might play. We uphold children's right to play. Freely chosen play is critically important in the healthy development of all children and young people. All children are entitled to quality play provision within their communities and we work strategically to achieve this goal on their behalf. We have been closely involved in drafting the national Play Policy (2002) and in providing recommendations for Play in Wales (2006) the Welsh Assembly Play Policy Implementation Plan. Play Wales' membership is drawn from a wide constituency including local and regional voluntary organisations, local authorities and individuals, employers and playworkers.

Play Wales welcomes the opportunity to give evidence on the general principles of The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Culture and other fields) Order 2009 for the National Assembly for Wales' Legislation Committee No. 4.

Play Wales supports the proposed order to provide the National Assembly with the power to make measures within the policy areas defined by the matter. It is our view is that it is coherent with the intent of the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure in respect of the proposed duty to be placed on local authorities in respect of children's play.

However we strongly advise that the Assembly and its Legislative Committees consider the cross cutting nature of this proposed order and its relationship with other proposed measures, specifically the Proposed Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales) Measure and the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure. This order and the proposed measures are potentially complimentary and we advise that the National Assembly considers and identifies ways in which they will ensure synergy, both legislatively and in practise, between its policies, strategies and initiatives.

Play Wales has provided considerable written and oral evidence to Legislative Committee No 2. on the general principles of the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure. We would draw attention to the inclusion within this measure of the following statement: Section 60 para. (6) within the measure "*play*" includes any recreational activity."



One day Wales will be a place where we recognise and provide for every child's play needs

Un dydd bydd Cymru'n wlad ble y byddwn yn cydnabod ac yn darparu ar gyfer anghenion chwarae pob plentyn

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Yn dyfarnu arian
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Whilst the LCO and this Measure can be regarded as complimentary we are concerned that there is the potential to bring about a significant confusion if the above is not clarified.

I trust that should you require any further clarification in respect of the concern detailed above, you will not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Greenaway', written in a cursive style.

Mike Greenaway
Director

