



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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## WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

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**TITLE:** Proposed Legislative Competence Order on the Environment

**DATE:** 27 April 2009

**BY:** Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

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I am pleased to inform Members that a revised Environment Legislative Competence Order (LCO) has been laid in Parliament for pre-legislative scrutiny, following the completion of discussions with the UK Government. The proposed LCO will now be considered by the Welsh Affairs Select Committee and by the House of Lords Constitution Committee. The publication of the revised LCO will enable completion of pre-legislative scrutiny, prior to the formal approval stages in both the Assembly and Parliament.

The proposed LCO would confer further legislative competence on the National Assembly for Wales. This proposed LCO, if approved, will provide the Assembly with legislative competence in relation to three broad areas, namely waste, pollution and nuisances.

The provision of legislative competence in these areas will enable us to legislate, in the form of Assembly Measures, to address issues surrounding waste, pollution and nuisances. This will enable the Welsh Assembly Government, Assembly Members and Assembly Committees to bring forward coherent and holistic proposals for legislation which are based on Welsh priorities and timescales.

Members may recall that the Environment LCO was first published in summer 2007 and that an Assembly LCO Committee was tasked with considering the Order. I am extremely grateful for the work that was undertaken by that Committee in scrutinising the LCO.

The revisions to the proposed LCO clarify the extent of the competence in a number of areas. The scope of the competence, including a summary of the exceptions, is described in the Explanatory Memorandum. I have circulated a copy of the revised LCO and Explanatory Memorandum with this statement.

We now look forward to the consideration by the Welsh Affairs Select Committee which we hope will report before the summer recess. Once pre-legislative scrutiny is complete, the draft will be brought back to the Assembly for formal approval. Any subsequent Measures arising from the LCO will be a matter for full scrutiny and debate within the National Assembly.