# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE**  | **Rapid Review of the Welsh Government’s Support for the Legal Sector in Wales**  |
| **DATE**  | **31 January 2019** |
| **BY**  | **Jeremy Miles AM, Counsel General and Brexit Minister** |

I am pleased to announce that, in collaboration with the Minister for Economy and Transport, I have now launched a rapid review into the Welsh Government’s support for the legal sector in Wales. This review will focus particularly on how the legal sector can be supported in helping to meet current and future challenges including those associated with changing business models, EU transition, technology advancements and capacity building in preparation for potential future developments in the legal jurisdiction.

Members will be aware that the Welsh Government set up the Commission on Justice in Wales in 2017 to review the operation of the legal and justice system in Wales, and set a long term vision for the future.

Through my previous engagement with the legal sector across Wales, I have gained broader insights into the range of challenges the sector is facing. As part of the Welsh Government’s response to the ongoing work of the Commission on Justice in Wales, the Minister for Economy and Transport and I intend to use this review to help us proactively identify and implement a range of future policies for the support and development of the sector and possible new approaches to the public sector procurement of legal services in Wales. I am therefore very keen for the outcomes of the review work to also inform the ongoing work of the Commission.

The review will be undertaken by Tony Williams of Jomati Consultants LLP, an independent consultancy with strong knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing the legal sector across a variety of jurisdictions. As part of the review, the consultants will be undertaking targeted engagement with the legal sector.

The first phase of the review work will be completed by the start of March 2019, with the second phase completed by the end of April 2019. I intend to provide Members with an update as the review work progresses and inform Members of the outcome and future policy proposals in this area.

The Terms of Reference for the review are at Annex A.