

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

**Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog Pontio Ewropeaidd
Counsel General and Minister for European Transition**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

David Rees MS
Chair of the External Affairs and Legislation Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

12 November 2020

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 23 October. The information that you have provided is appreciated and will be valuable in our continued efforts to prepare Wales for the end of the European transition period.

The Welsh Government continues to focus our efforts on end of transition planning, as we did during no deal planning, but as you recognise the economy is already under significant pressure as a result of the current pandemic and we know that businesses, stakeholders and Welsh citizens are struggling to focus on what the end of transition will mean for them. With this in mind, we have published an End of Transition Action Plan, a high level summary of our work to mitigate, insofar as possible, the negative impact of the very significant change in our relationship with the EU. This document also reflects the context of COVID and our 'framework for recovery'.

It is, of course, crucially important that the UK Government achieves a successful outcome to the negotiations before the end of transition and we continue to press the UK Government on this. As you mention the uncertainty about the eventual outcome inevitably poses difficulties in terms of sector preparedness and we know this is on top of difficulties they already face. The Welsh Government understands this and is taking all practical steps to ensure that all possible scenarios, along with the ongoing impact of COVID, have been considered and planned for ahead of 31 December 2020. Listening to the views of key stakeholders and keeping our communication with them clear and consistent will facilitate preparedness efforts and will remain a key priority within our preparedness work.

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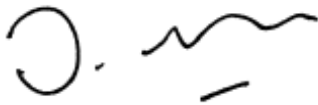
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As you know, the engagement of the UK Government with us has been very unsatisfactory but the Welsh Government continues to do what it can to ensure that Welsh interests are represented in ongoing negotiations as well as working tirelessly on preparedness. Can I take this opportunity to reassure both you and the committee that the areas of concern identified within the transcript you have provided are areas that have already been identified by the Welsh Government and related activity to mitigate concerns have been outlined within the End of Transition Action Plan which was published on 11 November.

Thank you again for kindly sharing your information.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles MS

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