

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

**Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Pontio Ewropeaidd
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**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

David Rees AS/MS

Chair, External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
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22 February 2021

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January.

Responding to your questions in turn, I can confirm that, with the exception of the Common Frameworks relating to Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, Services and Organics, provisional Common Frameworks have been approved by Portfolio Ministers across the UK in all areas relevant to Wales. The Fertiliser Common Framework has been approved by Portfolio Ministers. Organics is currently going through the final stages of portfolio Minister clearance. JMC(EN) Ministers have also endorsed all provisional Common Frameworks, with the exception of Northern Ireland, where they are still going through the Ministerial process. However, we consider provisional Common Frameworks to be operable in the interim.

Provisional Common Frameworks operate on an interim basis until each is agreed in its final format. They have already undergone collaborative policy development, testing of policy conclusions, peer review and, where appropriate, external sector-specific engagement. In 2021, as required, policy teams will undertake further technical stakeholder engagement; resolve and integrate interdependencies; and take forward any necessary final policy development. They will then be put forward to legislatures for scrutiny prior to Ministers' final confirmations.

I am committed to publishing all Common Frameworks (including any accompanying documents) at the first opportunity. We are working across the four governments to ensure this is coordinated appropriately and that transparency can be maintained with legislatures and stakeholders. We will feed in the point you raise about laying these documents as processes for publication are developed.

Finally, I confirm that in Common Framework areas where provisional agreements are in place any divergence will be managed under the terms of the Common Framework. In those few areas where provisional frameworks have not yet been achieved we would not expect

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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.

divergent policy to be developed in ways which would cut across the future Common Framework.

The post-EU Transition environment is a challenging one for the programme, not least because of the complexities caused by the UK Government's Internal Market legislation, and I will of course keep you updated on all of these matters as the programme progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Miles', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Jeremy Miles MS

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