Dear Mick,

Thank you for your letter of 19 June in respect of the Intergovernmental Agreement, and the Oliver Letwin amendment to the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill relating to environmental principles, which was agreed by Parliament on Monday 18 June.

The UK Government is very clear that the draft Bill which the Secretary of State will be required to produce will apply only in England, or to reserved matters. In addition, the amendment requires the Bill to set out a series of cross-cutting environmental principles; it does not oblige the UK Government to produce a Bill which sets out a legislative framework in relation to one of the specific policy areas set out in the Annex to the Intergovernmental Agreement.

As such, on this basis I do not believe that the amendment has the potential to breach the Intergovernmental Agreement, but Welsh Government officials will continue to engage closely with UK Government colleagues as they develop the draft Bill, and will be reminding them of the need to ensure that they are compliant with the Agreement.

Best wishes,

Mark

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gylldid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance