

Eluned Morgan AM

Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language

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21 January 2020

Dear Eluned,

International agreements considered by the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee on 13 January 2020

As part of our work on the scrutiny of international agreements, the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee considered the following agreements at our meeting on 13 January 2020:

- Agreement establishing an Association between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Lebanon;
- Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Georgia; and
- Agreement establishing an Association between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Tunisia.

In each case the Committee raised questions about the level of involvement of the Welsh Government during the negotiation process. I would be grateful if you would respond to the following queries.

Agreement establishing an Association between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Lebanon

This agreement refers to areas of cooperation that go beyond just trade, such as agriculture, fisheries, education and the environment. Although the Explanatory



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Memorandum states that the UK Government has “regularly updated the Devolved Administrations”, no reference is made to the Welsh Government being consulted during the negotiation process.

**Can you please outline what, if any, involvement the Welsh Government had in the development and negotiation of this agreement?**

Annex 3 of the agreement refers to “progressively establishing greater liberalisation of trade in agricultural, fisheries and agricultural products”.

**Can you please outline whether any assessment has been made by Welsh Government of the potential opportunities and risks of greater liberalisation for these sectors in Wales?**

Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Georgia

Although the impact of this agreement on Wales is very small, from a trade perspective, it does cover broader areas for cooperation in areas that are devolved or that will require implementation at a devolved level.

The Explanatory Memorandum does not make clear what specific input the Welsh Government had in this process – it only states that the Devolved Administrations have been regularly updated.

**Can you please outline the involvement of the Welsh Government in the UK’s negotiation of this agreement, particularly in relation to areas that are devolved or that will require implementation at a devolved level?**

Agreement establishing an Association between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Tunisia

As well as covering trade, this agreement deals with cooperation commitments in areas of devolved competence such as agriculture, education, energy, environment, tourism and social and cultural matters.

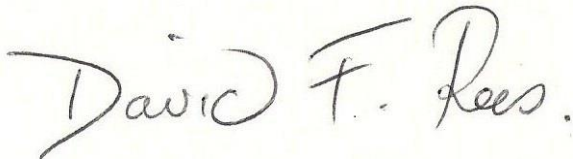
Again, we are interested in the level of the input the Welsh Government has had in the development of this agreement.



While the Explanatory Memorandum makes reference to Devolved Administrations receiving regular updates, there is no mention of the Welsh Government being consulted directly.

**Can you please outline what, if any, involvement the Welsh Government had in the development and negotiation of this agreement?**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light yellow rectangular background.

David Rees AM

Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

