

Mike Hedges AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

8 March 2017

Dear Mike,

**Re: Petition P-05-712 A Welsh Government Department for Europe Would Ensure
a Clear, Strategic and Accountable Voice for Wales in Ongoing Negotiations**

Thank you for your letter concerning the Welsh Government's role in the forthcoming negotiations on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

As a Committee we have been charged with examining "the implications for Wales of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union" and ensuring that "Welsh interests are safeguarded during the withdrawal process". In order to fulfil its remit, the Committee has held a number of oral evidence sessions with the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM; and with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford AM who represents the Welsh Government at the Joint-Ministerial Committee on European Negotiations.¹

To date the Committee has held a total of 4 evidence sessions with the First Minister or the Cabinet Secretary. A list of the dates and links to the transcripts for these sessions are provided in Annex A.

¹ The Joint-Ministerial Committee brings together ministers from the UK Government, Welsh Government, Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive




During these sessions, Members of the Committee have raised a number of issues including:

- how the Welsh Government is safeguarding Welsh interests in the negotiations;
- capacity and resources within the Welsh Government for effectively meeting the challenges and opportunities of Brexit;
- the evidence basis for some of the Welsh Government's policy positions on Brexit (as set out in 'Securing Wales' Future');)

The Committee has also published its report on the implications for Wales of leaving the European Union. Part one of the report looked at some of the key emerging themes for Wales. Part two looked in detail at the Welsh Government response to Brexit including inter-governmental relations; Wales's voice in the negotiations and the role of the National Assembly for Wales in scrutiny.

Looking ahead, the Committee will continue to hold the relevant Welsh and UK Government Ministers to account, and in particular scrutinise the evolution of Welsh Government structures relating to Brexit as the process unfolds.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Rees." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'D' and 'R'.

David Rees AM

Chair, External Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Annex A

Date	Witness(es)	Transcript
12 September 2016	Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones AM – First Minister of Wales	View transcript as HTML (1 77 KB)
	Des Clifford – Welsh Government Piers Bisson – Welsh Government	
7 November 2016	Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales	View transcript as HTML (370KB)
	Piers Bisson, Welsh Government Andrew Slade, Welsh Government	
23 January 2017	Mark Drakeford AM – Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government	View transcript as HTML (1 36KB)
	Paul Harrington – Welsh Government Des Clifford – Welsh Government	
6 February 2017	Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM – First Minister of Wales	View transcript as HTML (1 69KB)
	Desmond Clifford – Welsh Government	

