



Our ref EM/2099/19

David Rees AM
Chair of External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddEAL@assembly.wales

7 June 2019

Dear David,

International Agreements: Report on the agreement on trade in goods between Iceland, Norway and the UK

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2019 and for drawing my attention to your report on the agreement on trade in goods between Iceland, Norway and the UK. I very much welcome the report and recommendation and believe that the analysis further strengthens the evidence base that we continue to develop.

In your report you recommended that the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of the gaps in the continuity under this agreement with a view to understanding fully any negative impacts for Welsh businesses of these gaps and subsequently bringing such issues to the attention of the UK Government. I would like to reassure you that my officials have conducted a level of analysis that I consider proportionate to the importance of this agreement in trade terms and in relation to the trade policy priorities we face.

Any EU trade agreement that Welsh firms currently take advantage of is important and gaps in these agreements, once rolled over, will of course have implications here in Wales. I am afraid that I am unable to reassure you with absolute certainty that we are aware of every single issue might arise in every sector and sub-sector as a result of these gaps. However we have to be realistic and pragmatic about what level and detail of analysis we can undertake on these gaps given our current resources, expertise, data and firm level intelligence. As Minister for International Relations and Welsh language it is my responsibility to prioritise the resources available to us on trade policy and I believe that at this current time the analysis undertaken is sufficient.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

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.

However, I want to assure you that there is a considerable amount of work going on internally within Welsh Government to set up the Governance structures that will be needed to support trade negotiations going forward. As part of this work we are undertaking a significant mapping exercise across Welsh Government. We are looking at where the current gaps exist in relation to data, business intelligence, expertise, knowledge and skills. The outputs of this work will allow us to further prioritise our resources to ensure that the analysis undertaken going forward provides the level of detail that we will all be more comfortable with.

If it would prove useful my officials would be happy to provide the committee with a face to face briefing session where we update you on all the analysis undertaken. This might provide you with the opportunity to drill down into areas that you are most concerned about. I also propose to follow-up this letter with the latest analysis of the 2018 disaggregated trade data. Of course I will be happy to pick up any of this when I appear in front of the Committee on June 10.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol
Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language