

Agenda – External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee Room 3 – Senedd	Alun Davidson
Meeting date: 27 November 2017	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 15.00	0300 200 6565
	SeneddEAAL@assembly.wales

The External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee met for a concurrent session with the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee from 13.45 to 14.45, both Committees will now reconvene separately.

- 1 Brexit negotiations and preparations: general scrutiny – evidence session with the First Minister**
(15.00 – 16.00) (Pages 1 – 27)
The First Minister, Carwyn Jones
Des Clifford, Welsh Government
Piers Bisson, Welsh Government
- 2 Paper(s) to note**
(16.00)
 - 2.1 Letter from the Minister of State for Trade Policy, the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, regarding the Trade Bill**
(Pages 28 – 29)
 - 2.2 Letter from the Llywydd regarding European Union (Withdrawal) Bill LCM**
(Page 30)
- 3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting**
(16.00)
- 4 Brexit negotiations and preparations: general scrutiny – consideration of evidence**

(16.00 – 16.30)



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Agenda Item 2.1


Department for
International Trade

Rt Hon Greg Hands MP

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14th November 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 October, to the Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP. I am replying as Minister responsible for this policy area.

I was pleased to read your welcoming comments regarding our white paper commitments, to deliver an inclusive and transparent approach to trade policy. I believe that our trade policy can only benefit from the input of the devolved administrations and legislatures. The Secretary of State for the Department for International Trade (DIT), recently met with the Welsh First Minister to discuss the Welsh Government's priorities from a UK trade policy, as well as views on the recent trade white paper.

With regard to future trade agreements, we have committed to consult on our approach to engaging the devolved administrations and legislatures on future trade agreements in due course. We recognise that both the devolved administrations and legislatures will have a direct interest in our future trade agreements, and want to ensure that we conduct this consultation before setting out further details on our approach. We believe it is important that we build an understanding of the interests of the devolved administrations and legislatures, and welcome your views on this point.

More immediately however, we have recently introduced legislation to Parliament. The Trade Bill extends and applies to the whole of the UK, and will put in place the necessary legal powers and structures to enable us to operate a fully functioning trade policy. This will ensure the UK is ready for exit, providing continuity for individuals, businesses, and international trading partners.

As the explanatory notes set out, the Government is seeking legislative consent for the provisions in the Trade Bill, relating to the power to implement the Government Procurement Agreement (clause 1) and the power to implement qualifying international trade agreements (clause 2). We want to deliver this legislation for the benefit of the whole of the UK, and welcome the opportunity to engage with you further to discuss this legislation, as well as our broader developing approach to trade policy.

As lead Minister for the Trade Bill in DIT, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to take this forward.

I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Hands', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RT HON GREG HANDS MP

Minister of State for Trade Policy and Minister for London

Department for International Trade

David Rees AM

Chair, External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

23 November 2017

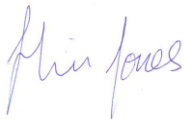
Dear David,

Business Managers discussed at Business Committee on 21 November 2017 your letter to me of 17 November in which you requested an extension of the deadline for reporting on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill LCM to 19 January 2018. Business Managers agreed that their preference would be to extend the deadline to 13 December 2017, to allow for a Plenary debate early in the new year if required, and to avoid the committee reports being overtaken by events. The Government indicated that they would look to table further LCMs on new substantive amendments as necessary.

I would be grateful if you could consider this proposal and provide feedback in time for Business Committee to return to this matter on 28 November if necessary.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, to which the revised deadline will also apply.

Yours sincerely,



Elin Jones AM

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

cc Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

