

Jeremy Miles MS
Counsel General and Minister for European Transition
Welsh Government

27 October 2020

Dear Jeremy,

UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

The External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee ("the Committee") is currently considering the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and is aiming to respond to this agreement ahead of the UK Parliament's scrutiny deadline of 7 December 2020.

To assist the Committee with its consideration, I would be grateful for your response to the following questions:

1. Has the Welsh Government conducted an assessment of the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ("the CEPA"), and can it outline how the CEPA differs from the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement ("the JEEPA")?
2. How will the CEPA likely impact on:
 - individual sectors in Wales;
 - Welsh consumers; and
 - social, labour, environmental and animal welfare issues?
3. The Welsh Government has previously stated that, after a UK-EU free trade agreement, a UK-Japan agreement was its main priority in order to ensure continuity for businesses already benefitting from the EU-Japan agreement. Is the Welsh Government confident that the CEPA will provide full continuity for Welsh businesses?



Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

✉ SeneddMADY@senedd.cymru

☎ 0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

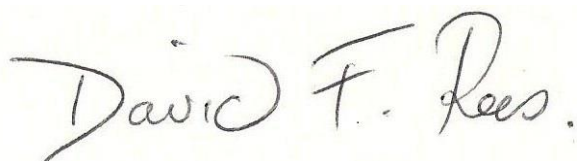
✉ SeneddEAAL@senedd.wales

☎ 0300 200 6565

4. Does the final impact assessment for the CEPA reflect the Welsh Government's understanding of the potential impact of the agreement on the Welsh economy, sectors and businesses?
5. The UK Government has stated that additional improvements have been made to the CEPA compared to the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, including in digital and data, financial services and food and drink sectors. What assessment has the Welsh Government made to understand how the modifications made to the CEPA compared to the JEEPA will impact on sectors and businesses in Wales?
6. Provisions are made in the CEPA for further cooperation in areas such as Geographical Indications, agriculture, and support for SMEs. This also includes the establishment of working groups such as the Working Group on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, and on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture. What assurances has the Welsh Government sought to ensure it is involved in any future bilateral discussions where they interact with areas of devolved competence?

In light of the scrutiny timescale now associated with this agreement, I would be grateful for a response to these questions by Friday 6 November 2020. This will allow the Committee to consider your response at its meeting on 12 November 2020.

Yours sincerely,



David Rees MS

Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

