



David Rees MS
Chair
External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
Senedd Cymru

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3 November 2020

Dear Chair

I am writing to let you know the 34th summit of the British-Irish Council will be held later this week. Member Administrations agreed to postpone the summit scheduled earlier in the year. It will be hosted virtually by the Scottish Government.

The Minister for Economy Transport and North Wales and I will be representing the Welsh Government. The summit will focus on recent political developments, including our economic recovery from coronavirus.

A communiqué will be agreed by the council at the summit and I will update Members about its publication and the outcome of the summit, in due course.

The summit will be preceded by a BIC Environment work sector Ministerial meeting to review collaboration on the marine environment, climate change and invasive non-native species. The Minister for Environment Energy and Rural Affairs will represent the Welsh Government at this meeting.

In a statement on intergovernmental relations last week, accompanied by the Welsh Government's first annual report to the Senedd on intergovernmental relations for the period April 2019 to March 2020, laid on 27 October, I underscored the importance of our relationships with our British-Irish Council partners. I hope this relationship will continue to grow in significance as the council continues to demonstrate what can be achieved through dialogue and collaboration.

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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.

I have also written to the chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Mick Antoniw MS and the chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, Mike Hedges MS.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD